

P Z

3

C7861

H

FT MEADE  
GenColl

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



00019705997



Class PZ 3

Book C 7861 H

Copyright N° 1001

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT.









# The Hidden Treasure of **MOKOLOHO**



---

This story is written from the time when Dr. Livingston and H. Stanly explored North Africa

---



COPYRIGHT 1919.

Written by  
**Jeanette Wheeler-Cooper**  
**1916.**



# The Hidden Treasure of MOKOLOHO

*1016  
1282*



This story is written from the time when Dr. Livingston and H. Stanly explored North Africa



COPYRIGHT 1919.

Written by  
**Jeanette Wheeler-Cooper**  
**1916.**

PZ  
C 7861  
H.

© CLA 529364

JUL 28 1919

## PRELUDE

David Livingston was on his way to his mission in Ruruman in the Bechuanaland country, six hundred miles north of Cape Town. From there to the wonderful Victoria Falls, when he came upon two tribes of natives, called the Mokolohos and the Bechuana. He received a friendly reception from each of the mighty chiefs, King Mokoloho and King Bechuana. While visiting King Mokoloho he was entertained royally in the savages native way, and in time they became good friends.

King Mokoloho wished to learn how to rule his Kingdom like the white Kings across the water ruled their Kingdoms. Dr. Livingston told him he would help him by first teaching how to learn to read and write. Then he could establish schools to teach his people. After learning how to read and write the rest will come easy, in learning the white man's way.

King Mokoloho had two sons named Rabba Rega and Nauyora. Rabba Rega had a kind and loving disposition, Nauyora hateful, sulky and revengeful. Rabba Rega, like his father, wished to be more than a savage; he was the oldest of the two. The oldest son or daughter of the Kingdom of Mokoloho will become ruler after the deceased of the present ruler, and if the present ruler has not a heir, the nearest relative becomes the heir. That part of King Mokoloho's ruling was like the white Kings. Nauyora covet the position of his brother, and that was one of his reasons for hating his brother. But, Rabba Rega loved his brother as a brother should, and was ignorant of his brother's feelings towards him. If King Mokoloho had his preference of the two, he never showed it. He treated them both as a loving father would.

In Dr. Livingston's company of explorers were natives, servants, and some white men. Among the white man was a Philip Gordon, an American. His birthplace was San Francisco. At the age of fifteen, he left his home to become an adventurer. After he had been everywhere, he settled in London, England. Some times later he heard that Dr. Livingston wanted men to go with him to Africa. He presented himself to Dr. Livingston, and was accepted.

So he joined the exploration, not for the love of exploring, but for the gain of wealth. During Dr. Livingston's stay at King Mokoloho's kingdom, Philip Gordon had a chance to find out Nauyora's feeling toward his brother Rabba Rega, and Philip Gordon saw where he could gain a great deal by it. So while King Mokoloho and his son Rabba Rega were learning from Dr. Livingston, Philip Gordon was scheming to find a way to get at the wealth, which he was sure was there, and was sure to get at it, through the younger son Nauyora.

On Chief Mokoloho's dominion, is a Hidden Treasure. Philip Gordon heard of this treasure, had not been on the place long, before he began to make secret investigation, but was met with disappointments. He could not see anything that looked like diamonds or gold, so, thought he to himself, the wealth must be here, these savages must of horded it together, put it in a treasure, and hid it.

Yes, the wealth was there and was left where the Mokoloho found it.

The fathers of the reigning King, discovered the wealth years ago. While out rambling, they discovered an opening in the mountains, and thought to explore it see where it would lead. After going through the opening a little ways, they found they were in a gully and it was leading

in the heart of the mountains. They were keen for an adventure, so they followed the passage, and wondering where it would end. And while thinking about it they came to the end of the passage. They discovered a large size place, formed like a large room. They entered it and was amazed at seeing such beautiful twinkling glass, and beautiful large yellow rocks. the ceiling and in the sides of the wall.

The floor was littered with jewels. Of course being heathens, they did not know the value of them. It happened to be the King and his eldest son who made the discovery, and they decided to keep the secret in the family, and not even let the people know of the beautiful stones and of the large yellow rocks. As time went on each reigning King, and oldest son or daughter knew of the secret treasure chamber. A native was placed at the entrance to guard (one at night and one in the day), so that no prowlers would happen to discover it. They also used the chamber to store their other wealth, such as ivory and pearls. So, Philip was figuring in what way he could best accomplish his desire. At first he thought of questioning some of his natives, was wondering how he could go about it. A plan entered his mind. He would question the natives in a round about way, and if he could not find out from them, he would see what he could do with the brothers. Rabba Rega and Nauyora. So he put his plans in action. The natives did not know or would not tell. He had the same luck with Rabba Rega. He then made up his mind to go to Nauvora in a different way.

So, while the father and elder brother were with Dr. Livingston learning, or their time employed elsewhere. Philip would make it his business to seek Nauyora's society and tell him of his wonderful adventures, and wonderful sights he had seen in his travels. He showed Nauyora, an uncut diamond he had in his possession, and also showed a small gold nugget. (He had brought the diamond and the gold nugget for that purpose). When Nauyora saw the diamond and nugget, his mind went back to the time when he had seen such as those. Only, the others were more beautiful and larger, than the ones the white man holds in his hand. For Nauyora too, had seen the secret chamber with the hidden treasure.

How Nauyora came to discover the Mokoloho's secret, I will explain. When he was quite young, he played one day near the entrance of the cave. He saw a guard standing near it, and did not pay much attention to the guard until he saw his father and grandfather go up to the guard and say a few words to him. Then his father and grandfather entered a place that looked like a hole in the side of the mountain. That action aroused his childish curiosity, and he made up his mind to follow and see where they would go. He waited until his father and grandfather got some distance, then he slipped by the guard and followed.

The Mokolohos had by this time had a secret door placed on the entrance to the chamber, and the only way to open the door was by pressing a button, which was also put in secret lay. When the oldest son or daughter of the King of Mokoloho comes to age, the reigning King or Queen, would tell them of the secret chamber and its legion, and take them there and show them how to enter and how to work the secret entrance. This secret is not to be told, to even their brothers or sisters, unless they are to be the future heirs. When Nauyora saw his parents press the button and enter, his surprise knew no bounds, he saw them enter the chamber, he followed and as he got to the door and looked in, he had a greater surprise. There before him was the beautiful sight he had ever seen in his life, for there before his childish eyes, the things his forefathers saw and the things that his grandfathers and father guarded so carefully, and here this white man telling him this little stone was priceless, what would he think if he saw the inside of the secret chamber. And, Gordon explaining to him about the meaning of

money and how he could obtain money by exchanging these beautiful sparkling, changeable colored glass, those yellow stones to get money and plenty of it. Then go to the beautiful and wonderful places that Philip Gorden tells him of. And, all he will have to do, is to show or tell Philip where to find more, like the ones he held in his hand. Nauyora pondered over what Philip had said. He knew by telling Philip Gorden his father's secret, he would be doing wrong, but what would he gain for not telling. After the death of his father, the throne and the treasures will go to his brother Rabba Rega, and nothing much to him.

So, at last he said to Philip, "I would love to see the beautiful places you speak of, I've always longed to see, what is on the other side of the water."

"You will see all the places, I will take you to them, providing you do as I say," said Philip.

Philip Gorden eyed Nauyora for a second, and then said, "I know you have seen diamonds and gold before. That is what these are called."

In the meantime he handed Nauyora the diamond and the gold nugget, Then went on saying, "When I showed you those (pointing to the diamond and nugget), I could see from the look in your eyes that you saw the like of them before."

He paused for a second, and then said, "I want to ask you a few questions about your position in your family."

"At the death of your father, your brother will be the future ruler, will he not?"

"Yes, he will be ruler," answered Nauyora.

Will your father's treasures, be his too?" asked Philip.

"Yes, with the rulership the treasures and everything connected with the kingdom, goes to my brother."

"What will you get?"

"Oh, I will get something, but nothing compared to my brothers. And then, I will always have a home in my brother's house. I will be his heir even after marriage, unless he has children."

"I'm afraid, you will never be his heir Nauyora, for more than likely he will soon marry and there will be children."

"Yes, I think the same," said Nauyora.

Philip Gorden narrowed his eye and looked at Nauyora and said, "What you need Nauyora is, as much of your father's treasures as you can get away with, and sail with me to those wonderful places I told you of."

Nauyora sat in silence for a while, thinking. Then he said to Philip, "There is such stones and nuggets like the ones you have, right here on this place. At least, they were here years ago."

He then told Philip of his childish adventure, and also said, "I would not today, of known of the cave, if I had not went, upon that adventure. For, you see, ever since my forefathers discovered the hidden treasure chamber, they called it the secret chamber, and kept it secretly hidden, and no one is supposed to know about it, but the King and the King that is to rule when the former is dead. (If the heir to the throne be a daughter, she will also know of the secret and rule).

They are under an oath not to tell either brother or sister, Nauyora went on saying, "my father has the least idea, that I know of this hidden treasure."

"So much the better," said Philip. It will be easier for you to help yourself to as much as you want. And your father will never suspect you."

The tempter went on saying, "I think the rules and legions of your fathers are one sided affairs. I believe in each child sharing alike. For boys they want wives and sweethearts, don't they? well they must have money to,

have them. On the other side of the water you will see some beautiful girls, more beautiful than your girls. He paused and watched Nauyora to see how his words were taking effect. Nauyora was all attention, and Philip felt as if he was doing pretty well. Philip went on saying, "These beautiful things (holding out the hand that held the diamond and nugget), would buy the best of them."

Nauyora, by this time was all excited. He was fighting the two spirits, the good and evil. The good seemed to conquer, for he said, "No, Philip, I will not betray my father's secret. I'm sorry I told you what I did."

"Then, you are a bigger fool, then I took you to be." answered Philip Gorden. He then said: "Listen Nauyora, you are mistreated, and everyone can see that your brother, is your fathers favorite, and you are just a hang on. You are foolish, for staying here, while over there is so much for you. "If you would listen to me, and let me help you, you would never regret it. And after I had taken you to those beautiful places, you will never want to see this place again."

Nauyora had not as yet said a word, but Philip Gorden could see by the look in his eyes, that he had made an impression, and made up his mind to let the subject drop for the present. He then said to Nauyora, "You need not give me your answer now, all I want is, for you to think over what I have said. Then you may meet me here tomorrow night, and then you can give me your answer."

"All right," said Nauyora, I will be here.

All that day and the next, Nauyora thought over what Philip Gorden had said. At first he decided not to let Philip tempt him. Although every word Philip said was true. His hate for his brother had increased since conversation with Philip Gorden. If it was just his brothers secret he was to betray he would not hesitate. But with his father, his feeling was different, for he loved his father, and had always been an obedient son to him, and this makes it hard for him to decide, or make up his mind to betray him, but then as Philip Gorden says, "what would he gain by not doing it."

As evening approached, he still had not decided when he thought of all the years his father had made over his brother, and his fathers indifference toward him, his anger got the best of him, and to think that in the future his brother will have the best of the situation, his hatred for his brother increased all the more.

Then saying to himself, what a fool I am to have the chance for revenge, and I hesitate to take it. When darkness came, it finds him on his way to keep his appointment with Philip Gorden; and in a few minutes he is in the presence of Philip Gorden. Philip is overjoyed in seeing him and said, "what is your answer Nauyora, yes or no?" My answer will be yes, if you keep your promise in taking me with you and dividing what we steal from the secret chamber with me.

You may rest easy about that, said Philp, for I will keep my word lied he. Can any of your people or servants be trusted with our secret asked Philip, you know we cannot be too careful.

I will see what I can do in getting some of my peoples help, and I'll be careful not to make no mistake in asking them. Good, said Philip, I am sure I can get several of my comrades help, and I too will be careful. The two worthies shooks hands and parted.

After Philip Gorden's interview with Nauyora, he then began to look among Dr. Livingston's men and his companions, for allies to help carry our his scheme. He found several that were willing. So he unfolded his plans to them, and found that they were as eager as he to wealth. He also told them his intentions; when the appointed time came, Philip Gorden had everything

ready and waiting at the appointed place for Nauyora. Philip Gorden was restless too, he knew he was taking desperate chances. What assurance did he have that Nauyora or some of the others, might betray him. He was thinking if he just knew where the secret chamber was, he would take chances in going after the wealth alone, and take chances in getting by the guard. Just as he got to the end of his thoughts, Nauyora puts in his appearance. Philip hails him, and in a glad voice said, "you are late, I began to think that you had lost courage, or probably your people had found out something."

"I took care of that," said Nauyora. "Although I could not get here any sooner. It was like this, when there are strangers around, my father has many spies, and they watch everyones movements. I saw one watching you, and that is why I did not come before now. I waited until he started towards his home, then I came to you. "You may rest assured, he did not find out anything from my movement said Philip Gorden. So now let us get down to business. How did you succeed in getting your men?"

"I found one that will help, by promising him that we will take him with us. Did you succeed in getting your men" said Nauyora.

Yes, says Gorden, as far as my part all is ready, and waiting for you. When you are ready, I'll lead you to the secret chamber. My man is near, all I need to do is to let him know when we are ready. All my people loves my father, and I could not find but one, that was willing to help me to steal from him.

"You are not stealing Nauyora, says Gorden. You know I told you before, that you are just taking what rightly belongs to you." Have your way about it," said Nauyora, "what ever you say, does make me feel less than a thief. I will not back out, but will go all the way with you in this. For once I give a promise I will keep it. And if you do not, well (said Nauyora giving Philip Gorden a measuring look in the eyes) you will never forget how Nauyora pays a traitor.

Philip Gorden quailed under the look for a second, then straightened up and pats Nauyora on the shoulder and said, "That threat is not for me, for I, will keep my promise." Then Philip Gorden gave a low whistle, and in a few seconds, several forms approached from the darkness. And as they drew nearer, Nauyora saw they were some of Livingston's men. Then Philip said to Nauyora, "These are the men I picked out to help us. So call your man, and then we will go."

Nauyora called his man, and they all started for the entrance of the cave, that lead to the secret chamber. While on the way, Philip asked Nauyora, "How many men stood guard at the entrance of the cave."

"Only one, said Nauyora." "If he sees me, the son of his king, he won't think anything. He does not know that I'm not to know the secret. Have you got your native disguises with you?"

"Yes," said Philip.

"Well, you and your men had better put them on, for we are nearly there."

In a few minutes, Philip and his men were disguised as natives, and Nauyora was pleased to see how much like natives they looked. Nauyora then said, "I've arranged so that two of us shall enter first, the two that enter, shall be you and I. Then my man shall enter, and is supposed to talk with me, and then come out and take the guard away, telling him that the man that entered with me, will stand guard on the inside of the cave. Then my man will say to him, 'You may go home for an hour, and I will take your place.' Then, no sooner then the guard leaves, call your men and then I'll lead you to the secret chamber."

There had not been much change made to the chamber since Nauyora saw it last. Only one change. Nauyora's father and grandfather had explored the chamber farther, and found a smaller room farther back, and in that room, they stored the valuest of the wealth, and also inserted a secret door to it too. When closed it also looked like a solid rock; And no one knew of it at the time, but King Mokoloho and his oldest son Rabba Rega. So when Nauyora the traitor led his companions to the chamber of wealth, he thought he was leading them to the only secret the mountain held.

When Nauyora pressed the button, and the door slided back and let their eager eyes rested upon the beauties within, you could imagine the look upon their eager, greedy faces. They all rubbed their eyes to see if they were awake or dreaming. Philip Gorden was the first to recover from his amazement and said, "My men, we have not much time, get busy. You can admire the beauties after we get some of them and get out of here." So the men got to work, filling the bags and carrying them to the river, and to the boat they had there for that purpose. After they had got all they could carry and was ready to start away, Philip Gorden gave his men a knowing look. Philip Gorden had no intention of taking Nauyora with him as he promised. All he wanted was to use him as a tool, then get rid of him. It did not matter to Philip how. So after the men got all the gold, ivory, pearls and diamonds stored away in the boat, they were all ready to leave. They all climbed in the boat one at a time. When it came Nauyora's and his man's time to climb in, two of Philip's men (by Philip's orders) sneaked up behind Nauyora and his man; Each of Philip's men had a club in their hands, and each hand with the club decended down on Nauyora and his man's head, and Nauyora and his man did not know nothing until later. Then Nauyora finds himself in the court room of his fathers, and discovers he is lying on a cot, his father, brother and many of his people are around him. He saw Dr. Livingston and some of his men among the people, assembled in the room. He did not see Philip Gorden or any of his companions that was with him on that wonderful night. Then his eyes wondered farther around the room, and then he saw a face that brought his mind back to the night of the happenings. The face he saw was the one of the native.that helped him. He also saw the guard that he had his man (that is the native), to lure away from the secret chamber.

Then everything came back to him, his eyes wondered again, and lingered on every face the principal actors of this drama of real life for a second and at last rested on his companion of his nights adventure, and for the first time discovered that the native was a prisoner, and by this discovery he knew that his father and the rest knew all. His mind goes back to the beginning of the adventure of the evening before, and then his mind wonders on, until he came to the time when he starts to climb into the boat, and something struck him on the back of his head, then everything became a blank. Now, when he came back from the dark to light, he finds himself in the room where all law breakers are brought, and stern looking faces all around him. Then it dawned on his mind for the first time, that Philip Gorden had not kept his promise. And discovered at last, what that lick on the back of the head meant. That Philip did not intend from the first to keep his promise, and had used him to get the gold and then leave him. He swore to himself then, if ever he saw Philip Gorden again, nothing will be shorter then killing.

At last Nauyora faces his father, and saw on his father's face a sterner look. Then Nauyora knew that he need not expect mercy from him. Somehow, he could not take his eyes from his father's face. He could not while his father is giving him such a look, for he knew that his father was look-

ing down to the bottom of his guilty heart. And by that look, Nauyora knows his father knows he is a traitor. At last his father said to him in a stern voice, "Nauyora get your belongings, and come here!" Nauyora got his belongings, and was again in the presence of his father. Philip Gorden had his men to knock Nauyora and his man on the head as they started to climb in the boat, and they did their work only too well, for Nauyora and his man laid unconscious until the guard who was sent away for an hour returned, and found them in that condition. The guard went to the King and told him of his discovery. King Mokoloho aroused a few of his men, and they all went to the place where the unconscious men laid. Nauyora's man was the first to gain conscious. And when he saw the king, fear became his master, and he confessed all.

They made a prisoner of Nauyora's accomplice, then made a litter for Nauyora, for he had not gained conscious yet. They carried him to the court room and set to bring him to conscious. Nauyora was listening to hear his father pronounce his death sentence. Imagine his surprise, when hearing his father telling him to get his belongings and come to him.

After Nauyora returned with his belongings, his father looked him over with the same stern look in his face, and said, "Nauyora, I have had the court to assemble here, to hear your case, and to decide what is best to do with you. My people for generations back, has been warned not to pry in their rulers secrets. It has been explained to them, that they should not meddle with the secret chamber. If caught prying, or trying to enter the secret chamber, the penalty would be death. It grieves me to think my son, would be the first to break the rules. Not only entering himself, but take others with him and help to rob me;" King Mokoloho paused for a second, there was a painful look in his eye, although his face was as stern as before. He then said, "From this hour on, I do not consider you my son. From now on, you are an enemy and a traitor. We have voted on your case, and I voted you to be put to death. But they voted that you should vanish from the dominion, the votes for you to be banished won. If any of my people were to see you at anytime around here, they shall seize you and bring you here to me, and I will have you put to death."

Then King Mokoloho hands him a large sized bag, containing some of the dearest of stones and gold nuggets (that came from the smaller room of the hidden treasure of which the Mokoloho calls the secret chamber.) You can exchange these into money, and it will bring you enough to last you a long time, unless you let someone make a fool of you again. I know the full particulars of your last night's doings. Your partner in crime confessed all.

Nauyora stood with a bowed head, while his father talked. "Go now," said King Mokoloho, to his son Nauyora. "And never let me see your face again!" Nauyora went from his father's presence, and also from the dominion, with his head bowed, and with hate in his heart for his father, the people of Mokoloho and more for his brother. He then takes an oath, and said, "The last thing I will do in this life is to have revengences on you will not let you. I swear it and I ask you, "Oh, evil spirit to help me."

Nauyora was some distance from his father's dominion, when he took Rabba Rega, you or yours will not hold Mokoloho in peace, for, mine and I the oath of revengences, and nothing but the broad plains and the sky was there as witnesses .

Nauyora became a wanderer. With the wealth his father gave him, enabled him to travel to the four corners of the earth. He became tired of traveling, and he decided to settle. He began to look about for a place to settle, he went over in his mind the places he had been, and found the only place

that suited him was America. And the Northern part of America he went, and in a few weeks, he was in San Francisco.

Nauyora did not have the teachings his father and brother had. While Dr. Livingston was giving lessons to his father and brother, he was elsewhere, for at that time he did not care to learn. But he did find in his travels, that education was needed. Although Nauyora had good wisdom and a crafty mind, these gifts helped him a great deal. These also made it easy for him to pick up book learning here and there. But his greatest teacher was experience. He had not come to any decision as to what he would do when he settled. So when he landed in San Francisco, he had not decided yet. He wandered around the city taking in the sights, and made great discoveries. And some of these discoveries were the color line was down between the white and black. He was also surprised to see so many people of his race in America. Although some were lighter than himself, and some looked like they were white. And it seemed so strange to him, to be told that they were of his race. In time, he began to feel at home, with his American people. He made friends among them. He learned their way of living. He did not take to the church set, but to the worldly set he took to. The gay life and plenty of sport, was what he wanted. One of his new acquaintances said to him, "Nauyora, if you want to have real sport and gay life, come with me to Chicago; I'm going there in a few days." Then Nauyora told him his wish.

"Well, Chicago is the place for you; said the friend. And to Chicago, Nauyora went. Nauyora was no fool, he was careful of his money, and was wise in not letting his companions know too much of his affairs. He had in his adventures, that the least you say about your affairs, the better. While enroute to Chicago, Nauyora tells his companion, that he would like to open up a gambling house, and (lies) said, "My father intends to send me money to go in business, as soon as I am settled."

"When you are ready, I will help you to get placed. While you are waiting to hear from your father, I will take you around and show you the city," said his companion. After arriving in Chicago, Nauyora made his rounds, and in a few months, Nauyora became a full fledged Chicago man. He was able to talk on all the topics of the sporting class, and in the meantime, he had become a professional gambler, and had also taken other vices. He also became a race horse man. He was an apt pupil in learning, and by the time he was ready to open his gambling establishment, he had learned the in and out of all. While doing the round on State Street, he became interested in a beautiful malatta girl, who entertains in one of the clubs on State Street. As soon as Nauyora saw her, he fell in love with her, and makes up his mind to win her for his mate if he could. While attending the races one day, he saw her, he ask his friend if he knew her, his friend answers "yes," she was an acquaintance of his. Then he takes Nauyora by the arm and goes over to the lady, and presents him to her as Mr. James Smith, and Nauyora never left her side that evening and spent his money on her right and left, which even surprised his friends, and the lady was willing to let his stay at her side as long as he had money to spend. And from that day on, Nauyora was constantly by her side, and always bringing her beautiful presents of some kind, until at last he had completely won her over, and at last he found courage to ask her to be his wife. He then tells her of his wonderful home across the waters, his father's home in Africa. Then he shows her some of his rarest of jewels, and tells her of the secret chamber, being full of these same stones. And tells her he has enough with him to keep her and himself all their life, if she marries him.

"If you marry me," says Nauyora, "I will take you over and let you see this chamber." He told her that, just to get her to marry him, for he knew his father would keep his word, if he went back, and he had no idea of going back, while his father lived, but he will make her think he can go back any time. So, she told him she would marry him, and they married about the time the gambling establishment was completed. He married her under the name of James Smith, and in a year from the time, a baby girl was born, and they christened her Sola Smith.

We will now journey back to Africa, and see what Kink Mokoloho and his son, Prince Rabba Rega are doing. Five years have brought a wonderful change to King Mokoloho's dominion. Instead of seeing little huts of grass, and a large hut in the center like the rest of the natives villages. And like Kink Mokoloho's village looked five years ago, when Dr. Livingston with his company of men came among them. There is a large beautiful, gray stone palace, and neat little cottages and some of the buildings were almost as large and as grand as the palace, which stood in the same place, where the large hut, (which looked like a haystack) had stood. The streets were all paved. The people wore clothes, and seeing them at the present time, you would never thought, they had lived a savage life. There was not a ruler in Europe, that could boast of a better ruled kingdom. All was owed to Dr. Livingston. He took extra pains with King Mokoloho and King Bechuana. King Bechuana's dominion was next to King Mokoloho's. At the time, when Dr. Livingston entered their lives, the Mokoloho and the Bechuana were hostile. They had been engaged in several battles, but neither one conquered. And Dr. Livingston, was the means of bringing them together. He also taught King Bechuana.

King Bechuana had two children, a son and a daughter. The names of King Bechuana's two children were Mziga and Mata.) The Kings became friendly. They would exchange visits, and in that way the young people saw a great deal of each other. Dr. Livingston explained to King Mokoloho and King Bechuana the necessity of sending the young people to England, to school. At first, the fathers would not hear to it, but at last they gave in. And the young folks were gone five years, (four years for school, and one year for travelling. The boys together and the girls with a chaperon. While making the journey, Rabba Regga came across Nauyora in Chicago. Rabba Rega did not like the way his brother was living, and told him if he did not change his way of living, he would come to grief. Nauyora had not as yet met his lady love, but in a few months, he did. Soon after, the boys and girls were again in their African homes, well educated African Princes and Princesses. And in a few months, Prince Rabba Rega and Princess Mata, were united in marriage, and at the same time, Prince Mziga too, takes to himself a wife, the daughter of his father's brother. And in a years time, each couple was blessed with a child. Prince Rabba Rega a son, and Mziga a girl. The boy was christened and given the name M'Teara, and the girl was christened and given the name Vgonda.



The Hidden Treasure  
of  
Mokoloho.



## THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF MOKOLOHO.

---

### CHAPTER I.

Fifteen years have passed. During the passing of the fifteen years, Dr. Livingston, King Mokoloho and King Bechuana have long since died. King Rabba Rega now reigns over Mokoloho. His wife Mata has been dead some years and all he has left of those who are near and dear to him are his son, Prince M'Teara and his niece Queen Vgonda. Queen Vgonda's father died a few years after he became King of Bechuana, and his wife soon followed him to the world beyond. Before Queen Vgonda's mother's death, she made King Rabba Rega promise her he would take her child and raise her as if she were his own. And hoped after his son and her daughter had grown they would love and marry, thus uniting the kingdoms, which subject the two families had often talked on.

King Rabba Rega promised her that he would do all he could to bring the marriage about. After the death of the Queen (Queen Vgonda's mother), he looks after the little Queen's affairs. He becomes the ruler of Bechuana and the little Queen's guardian until she becomes of age, and he took her to his palace and brought her up with his son M'Teara.

After Dr. Livingston's death, H. Stanley became his successor. He, like Dr. Livingston, explored the said parts. Then went back to England and made his report. And said: "I was told that there was a hidden chamber of treasures there."

"Did your informer tell you in which of the two dominions this wonderful wealth is hidden?" asked the ruler of England.

"Yes," answered Stanley. "He said this wonderful chamber is in the dominion of Mokoloho." The ruler of England then made up his mind that Mokoloho should be his. An Arabian Sultan by the name of Said Bargash also heard of the hidden treasure and coveted it. And his intentions were to have the dominion of Mokoloho, too. King Rabba Rega was in ignorance of the suspects, his time was taken up ruling the two dominions, and looking after the welfare of his two royal children. At times his thoughts would be of his brother. Those thoughts were always sad ones. King Rabba Rega would of had his brother with him long ago, had it not been for the promise he had made his father. That promise was, after his father's death, he would not let Nauyora come back. "I would not have you to make this promise," said his father, "I know no good will come by letting him come back. If he comes to you with all kinds of promises, do not let him or his children into your home. I know, my son, if you let him or his into this city, you and yours will come to grief. It is known in our family legend, that the one that is a traitor to his family or people, because the viel one's play toy. That is why I wanted him put to death, so there would be no more of him. That was the way my forefathers treated a traitor. So beware of your brother and his children, my son, and promise me that you will not bring him here after I'm gone. If he is in need, help him, give him as much from the secret chamber as you wish and do anything that is in your power for him, but never let him enter Mokoloho. Promise." And he promised.

"If you break your promise, misfortune will come to you and yours."

And that is one reason why King Rabba Rega did not send for his brother after his father's death. But he loved his brother so well, he himself

was willing to look over the wrong his brother had done. And when there was a sad faraway look on his noble face, you may rest assured he is thinking of his brother, Nauyora. He could not forget the life his brother was living. Could his father's last words to him be true? He hoped not, but his doubt is for Nauyora. He did not tell his father of his visit to Nauyora. For he would had to tell his father how he found his brother living. And he did not want to cause his father more pain than necessary. For he knew, deep down in his father's heart he still loved Nauyora. Time went on. King M'Teara and Queen Vgonda were maturing to manhood and womanhood. King Rabba Rega had made arrangements to send them to England to school. And the two were packing to go. King Rabba Rega sent word to each, saying he would like to have a few words with them before they departed. Prince M'Teara was the first to put in appearance. After his father greets him, he said, "M'Teara, I wish to have a few words with you before you go. The subject of our conversation will be on your and Vgonda's future. It has been her parents, your mother's and my wish, that you two would marry and join the two kingdoms into one!"

Prince M'Teara knew what his father was going to say, when his father sent the word that he wanted to see him before going. It is one subject he did not care to talk on. So he said to his father, (with his face turned away) "Father, I am sure I do not love Vgonda as to want her as my wife." King Rabba Rega looked at his son for a moment, then patted him on the shoulder and said, "Of course, I do not wish you to marry without love. Vgonda has such a sweet disposition that in time you will learn to love her dearly. You may search the world over and you will never find a better girl than her for a lifetime mate. When I married your mother, I did not at first have the fiery, passionate love that a youth has in his first love. My love for her was the love of a brother and a friend. To obey my parents wish, I married her and was glad that I did, for no better woman lived. I found my love for her in later years. As the time went one, my love for her grew. So you see, my son, I did not lose anything by obeying my parents, for I found out that my parents knew what was best for me. I'm saying to you what my parents said to me, when I, like you, was about to start to finish my education and travel and see the world and be in the society of other women. I was glad that they talked with me on the subject. For it kept me in mind of my duty to my parents and to my people."

After the father was through talking, the son said, "Yes, father, whatever you think is right for me to do, I will do. I feel towards Vgonda as you did with my mother. I will do with you as you did with your parents. I will marry Vgonda when I return, providing she is willing after returning from school and abroad." Then Prince M'Teara embraces his father, and then made his departure, to be gone five years from his home. A few minutes after Prince M'Teara left his father's presence, Queen Vgonda was before her uncle, to bid him good-bye, and to hear what he had to say to her. King Rabba Rega's conversation with her was the same as he had with her cousin, Prince M'Teara. Only Queen Vgonda acknowledged (in a shy modest way) that she did love Prince M'Teara, but did not wish him to marry her unless he loved her. Said she, "I do not believe in marriage without love. If he meet someone and love them, uncle, do not force the marriage with me upon him!"

"We will not talk any more on the subject now, we will finish it after you return."

"Yes, uncle, I'm sure that M'Teara, you and I will come to an understanding by then."

King Rabba Rega then took his niece in his arms and gave her a fatherly kiss and sent her from him with her chaperon, to be gone five years.

Fours years had passed since Prince M'Teara and Queen Vgonda bid father and uncle good-bye. The young prince and queen had finished their school'ing and was finishing up their education by traveling. In the meantime, king Rabba Rega received a letter from his brother, Nauyora, telling him that his wife had died and himself in prison, and his child Sola was without home or protection. And telling him to show his brotherly love by taking his beautiful daughter to his home. King Rabba Rega pondered over the letter some time and again thought of his father's last words to him, warning him not to have Nauyora or his children back. And if he did, calamity would come to his home. He believed too, it would happen. But what could be do? There was his only brother, begging for him to do just one little favor in taking his daughter to the home where she ought to be, and he hesitating to have her. At last he made up his mind to let her come, let come what may. King Rabba Rega answered his brother's letter and saying how sorry he was to hear of his misfortune, and also said, "if there was anything he could do in money matters, let him know." Then told him of his son and that his son was en route to Chicago, and said, "if you will send me your daughter's address, I will forward it to my son, and he will bring her home with him, and this shall be her home always."

\* \* \* \* \*

We left Nauyora or John Smith, which we will now call him, with his new gambling establishment, happily married, and his new born daughter. As the years went by, we will look into them. John Smith's love for his beautiful wife had not changed. There were several tender spots left in his wicked heart. That was the love for his wife, and daughter. If his wife did not love him, he never knew it. She did not love him, he had taken her from the life she lived and placed her in luxury. She was considered the most beautiful and the swellest dressed negress on the south side of Chicago. It was through her that her husband (John Smith), was able to enter society. Although Smith's gambling house was attended by the swellest of the race, it had the name of being a questionable establishment. There were a great deal of whispering about the shady doings there. So as the years went by, the whispering became murmurs, and from murmuring to yells, and John Smith richer. His wife would come to him with tears in her eyes, begging him to sell out or close the place, and said, "I'm so tired of having your doings thrown in my face. And besides, it will hurt our child when she enters society. I'm planning for her to make a grand entrance in society and I will do it too if you do not disgrace us with your business. You have money enough for us to live in splendor all our lives and then be able to settle a fortune on Sola."

"Every word you say is true, my dear," said Smith. "I just can't stop now, if I did I would go mad. Gambling is the onliest pleasure I take in life. When away from the table, I'm miserable. The fact is, I've lived this life too long and I'm completely wrapped up in it. So you can see I can not give it up. Just you run along and spend the money, while I make it! You do not know the pleasure it gives me to see you spending it, and know by having it to spend makes you happy. I'm making it my life's duty to make you and our child happy."

That was as near as John Smith's wife could draw him from the life he lead. By this time he was thoroughly bad. Smith's people who frequented his place, found that his games were not straight. He was wise enough to let some of his guests make large winnings, then have some

of his accomplices to waylay the ones who had won and rob them of the winnings and bring them back to him. He would give them their share, the rest he would keep. He also had beautiful women in his place to help draw patronage. (He also harbored thieves and murderers, and some of the crimes were his doings.) As years went by, during Smith's criminal life he ran across Philip Gordon. Not the Philip Gorden of old, but the Philip Gordon of the time. He was all out and down, and a pitiful looking sight to see. He begged him once a victim to forgive him for the wrongs he did him and said, "my companions forced me to let them do you. So, what could I have done but let them have their way?"

Nauyora or Smith knew he lied, but pretended to Gorden that he believed him. For, his object was to get Gorden to his place and have revenge on him. He then said to Gordon, "Why are you in this condition? When I last saw you, you was loaded with wealth to keep fifty men a life time, and then have some to leave to their kin."

"It was like this," said Gordon (hanging down his head sheepishly). "after my companions did you and your man, they waited until we got clear of your country and out at sea, then conspired against me. Sent me adrift with one small bag of the stolen wealth and enough to eat to keep me a week and a jug of water to last as long. But lucky a passengership happened along and took me in. It was on its way to this country and landed me here, and I've been here in this country ever since."

Some of Philip Gorden's story was true, and some of it was not. After he had the men to knock Nauyora and Nauyora's man senseless, they rowed away as fast as possible. By daybreak they were miles away from King Mokoloho's dominion, and in an hour would be able to charter a steamer to take them from the country. They were successful in getting a steamer and was out in deep sea when a thought entered Philip Gorden's mind, why not keep it all, and he made up his mind to keep it all. When the men asked for their share, he put them off, saying 'I will divide when we reach the first port.' The men became suspicious of him and watched him, and found that they were right in their suspicions. In watching him, they saw him hiding the sacks with the riches under the flooring in his state room. That made them angry and they put him off the steamer. So you see the latter part of Philip Gorden's story was true. "I'm sory for you," lied Nauyora. (I will call him Nauyora while he is in Philip Gorden's company, for Gorden does not know that he has changed his name.) "Come home with me and I will see what I can do for you!" And Philip Gorden went with Nauyora to his doom. For he was seen no more in life. A few days after his meeting with Nauyora or John Smith his body was found with a knife wound in it many blocks from the Smith's fashionable gambling house. The mystery of his death was never solved. If one could have seen the face of Nauyora while he read of the finding of the body, you would see a triumph and satisfied look and hear him mutter, "one more and then I will be contented." That one more was his brother Rabba Rega. For Nauyora still intends to carry out his oath of revenge on his brother. As time went on, Smith's business flourished and more of his preys were fleeced. At last they took courage and reported their playing at the Smith's place, and if they won they would be allowed to leave the gambling house with it, but would not get but a couple blocks away before they were held up and robbed. The police officials promised they would see after the matter. And in a few days several secret service men were detailed to look into Smith's affairs. While doing it, they made startling discoveries and was convinced at the blindness of the law to let a man in the arm's reach of the

law carry on such doings under their nose. They went about the investigating of the Smith's affairs in such a way that Smith had the least idea that he was suspected. So one day when things were going smoothly, the climax came. Without warning, the vulture of the law pronounced on his gambling house. They did not get him then, he managed to get away from the gambling house and to his home. He tells his wife of his misfortune. His daughter, Sola, had been out of school over a year and at the time was a society belle, and had grown to be a very beautiful and an accomplished young lady. She had many suitors for her hand in marriage, but none had found a way to her heart. Sola was beautiful like her mother, wicked and heartless like her father. She was also clever and ambitious. Looking in those beautiful, innocent eyes of her's, you would think only innocence slumbered there. After John Smith (alias Nauyora told his wife and daughter of his misfortune, they took what valuables they could carry and went with the husband and father in hiding. They had not gone many seconds when the officers were in their home and found that they were too late, for Smith had gone, but evidence showed that he had been there. The law took possession of all his and his family belongings, to be held until further notice. After Smith made his escape from the law, he left his wife and daughter with some friends, telling them he would try to see them as often as possible, then he left the city. His wife took deathly sick a short time afterwards. She had been suffering from a weak heart for some time, and this sudden misfortune brought on the worst. A while after he had settled in another city, he received a telegram, saying, to return as soon as possible, for his wife is dying. And also said to disguise himself, for the officers are still on the watch for him. After Smith read the message, he then made ready to go to his wife. What cares he for the law when one of the beings he loves is dying, and he away from her side. To be with her in her last hours was all he wanted. Then, after that, let come what may. So he went. She was unconscious and sinking fast. His daughter was at her bedside weeping, he came in and stood on the other, then an officer stepped up to him and said, "John Smith, you are under arrest; I knew you would come back when you heard of your wife's condition, that is why I waited here for you."

"I counted the cost," says Smith. "You fellows will let me stay until she breathes her last, won't you?"

"I'm sorry, Smith, but I can not. You know, law is law. So you must come now!" And he went to jail and had his trial. They could not get enough evidence to convict him for murder. But for other crimes they found evidence enough when they raided his gambling house. He was sent to prison for a long term. The state seized all he possessed, for they proved it was gotten unlawfully. Just before he started to serve his sentence, he sent the letter which his brother received, begging his brother to take his daughter, Sola. While in jail he studied out his plans for the future. He knew that his brother was ignorant of his hatred for him. He also knew his brother would do anything that was in his power for him, and knew his brother still loved him. On those assurances he worked out his plans. Later he received a letter from his brother, saying his son M'Teara would come for his daughter. When John Smith (alias Nauyora) received the letter, he was overjoyed and was sure then, that his plans would work in his favor. After he entered the state's prison, his daughter Sola made her first visit. During that visit he told her of his writing to his brother and of the results of the writing of the letter. Sola, like him, was overjoyed in hearing the good news. Then said Nauyora to her: "Sola, I have something I wish you would do for me after you are established in your uncle's home. I want you to intercede in my coming home too. You are beautiful and winning, Sola, I want you to draw

this son of my brother's into marriage with you. Then secretly get him and his father out of the way. You then will be queen of Mokoloho. Before you put your uncle out of the way, I want you to have him to announce my coming home to all Mokoloho. By that time I will be free to come. My friends from the outside are planning to help me escape."

"Why do you hate your brother and your nephew, father?" asked Sola.  
"I thought all along that you thought a great deal of your brother."

Nauyora had not told his wife and daughter how he came to leave home, his hate for his brother or of his oath of vengeance.

"I have never told you of my early life, my child, but I will now tell you all. Then you will understand why I wish my brother and his son dead."

Then he told her all that is already known. Tells her of the family legends and saying, "If it were not for the legends, my brother might let me return. For I come of a superstitious tribe; and if once you betray your family they say the Evil one takes possession of you; and I guess they are right, for it seems the evil one has got me." Nauyora says those last words to himself more than to his daughter. Then he tells her of the secret chamber and of the wealth that is in it and gives her maps of the cave and the secret chamber. After he tells her his story, he then asks her did she not blame him for wanting vengeance of his brother and his family, and she answers and says, "I do not blame you, father, for wanting vengeance, for you have been badly treated. You can count on my help, I will make them pay dearly for what you have suffered, and will reinstate you in your home where you rightly belong in spite of their old foolish legends. If your father had treated you like a father should, you would not have turned traitor to your people. So when you escape from here, keep me posted as to your whereabouts, and I assure you I will have you there in a little while, reigning as king over your people and King Rabba Rega and Prince M'Teara will be only a memory." And in a little while, Sola kisses her father and tells him she will come to see him and bid him farewell before she left). And in a few weeks from the time she came to see him and bid him good-bye until they meet again in Africa. Father and daughter embrace each other for the last time in life. They planning to meet in Africa; fate planning otherwise.

## CHAPTER 2.

Soon after Sola left, Nauyora takes out the last letter he received from his brother and reads it over, and goes over the part several times where it read, "You may rest easy about your daughter," and saying "I will receive her as my daughter and make her feel as one." And Nauyora gives a hearty laugh over those words and see in his mind's eyes how Sola was to repay his brother after she enters his home. Nauyora is surprised to find that his plans were working better than he thought as far as his brother was concerned; all that was left for him to do was to make his escape. Little did he think that his career was about to be ended. For while making his escape he was shot and killed instantly and that ended the life of Nauyora, the second son of king Mokolohō, who was driven from his fathers kingdom twenty years before, and all the inheritance he left to his daughter was the name of a convict's daughter, his evil nature. And in return for those his daughter, Sola Smith, was to carry out his oath of vengeance. For, in that woman he planted the seed of evil, and in time the seed will sprout and grow.

\* \* \* \* \*

Prince M'Teara received his father's letter, telling him to go to Chicago for his cousin, Princess Sola, and bring her home with him and also send the address his brother Nauyora had sent to him. Prince M'Teara went to Chicago for his cousin and was shocked to find her entertaining in a cabaret on State Street. Yes! Sola, the belle of society a few months ago, had come to that and you could imagine her feeling when meeting her old friends. They snubbed her, even her suitors, who had once vowed everlasting love to her, acted differently. When away from the society world, they would meet her and were friendly enough, but when with the society people and they happen to meet her, would snub her completely. There was pity due Sola, for her father's sins were not hers. But she had to bear them. She had no money. The State took all her father had. She did not know how to work, for she did not have it to do. At school she was not taught domestic science, for her parents said she need not have any. They wanted her to have the teachings of a lady, how to entertain, etc. Her outdoor games were tennis, basket ball and fencing. She won the reputation of being the best swordswoman in her class. She had a good voice and danced well and she was proud to think she had talent. So she makes the most of it and becomes an entertainer in the cabaret, where her cousin, Prince M'Teara, found her and she noticed the shocked and painful look in his face for seeing her in such a place, and for once she conceived a reproach for her father for the cause of her being there. And he, the son of a king, would fall so low to allow himself to become a convict. She soon dismissed those gloomy thoughts from her mind and greeted her cousin with one of her bewitching smiles, saying, "This is my dear cousin M'Teara from far across the water, is it not?" He answers (taking her hand and laughingly) says, "Yes, I'm your savage cousin, are you not afraid of me? Aren't you afraid that I might devour you like the cannibals do over at my home?" "No, I'm not afraid," says Sola with a smile. "You must remember,

my father is a savage like you and I'm not afraid of him. I think he is one of the best daddies in the world, even if he does wear the stripes running the wrong way." Sola said those words in a joking way. But who knows what she was thinking while she was saying them. Sola and her cousin went from one joke to another until they were on the best of terms. It was Sola's intention to get in her cousin's graces. And she was successful. There was one more gift she had, the gift of fascinating, and she knew how to make the most of that gift. And she was using it on her cousin M'Teara. And every moment he spends in her presence, he becomes more under her spell. Sola was proud to find him so easy. And in her mind she sees herself robed in a court gown, with a jewel crown on her head, and loaded down with other priceless jewels. She intends to come back to Chicago and enter society again but not as Sola Smith, the gambler's daughter, but as "Queen Sola," Queen of the mighty Mokoloh dominion, and those that snubbed her will be glad to kneel and do homage to her. Those were the thoughts that ran through Sola's mind while she was drawing her cousin, Prince M'Teara, on.

So while still out at sea, but nearing home, Prince M'Teara did not seem so cheerful. The reason of Prince M'Teara's cheerlessness. He found himself desperately in love with his cousin Sola. And is thinking of his half promise to his father in regards of the marriage to his cousin Vgonda. And he was just making up his mind to take Sola in his confidence and tell her all. Sola says to M'Teara with one of those enchanting smiles she knew how to assume, "A penny for your thought, dear cousin, I know they must be gloomy ones, for your face shows it. Your face should be all brightness, now that you are nearing home and see the dear folks you had not seen for years." "Yes, you are right, my face should express the look of happiness. And I would be happy if it were not for one thing, and that is the half promise I made my father in regards to my future." He then tells Sola of the marriage his father wishes to bring with his cousin Vgonda. He then describes his cousin Vgonda to her and says: "If she makes the woman that I think she will make, she will be a beauty; she is not very beautiful in looks, but has a beautiful disposition. And Sola hearing this, hates Vgonda already and feels that in Vgonda she will have a dangerous rival. She then says: "You have everything to be glad to reach home for. From the description you give of your cousin she must be very desirable. And you ought to feel yourself a lucky man for being able to secure a real prize so cheap. So cheer up and be happy and rejoice with me, for I am rejoicing to think I am on the way to the land of my father's, and see the place which he once called home and see my dear uncle I heard father talk so much of and, see this dear Vgonda, my future cousin-in-law." (As Sola says those last words, she looks at her cousin with that fascinating look she always gives him, which she knew would give his heart the double beat. She knew she had her cousin completely won over by then). Prince M'Teara looks at her with that passionate love look (the look that all men give the siren who have them completely in her toils). He says not a word but keeps his eyes on her as if enchanted. But Sola goes on in that sweet enchanting voice she knew how to assume for such an occasion and says: "We are having a lovely voyage over" and sight and says, "I will never forget it. For Prince M'Teara in America and on the high seas will not be the same Prince M'Teara to his poor cousin Sola, when he reaches his father's kingdom. But the hardest part," says Sola, trying to make her voice sound like in tears, "is that I will be denied your society once in a while. For you must do as your father wishes and consent to marry Vgonda, even though it will break my heart to see you do it." After saying the latter words, she

drops her head in her hands and sobs. M'Teara could not stand that, so he goes up to Sola and takes her in his arms and says in a faltering voice: "Dearest, do you mean by those words that you care so much for me you like not to see me the husband of another? Is it because you love me? I've loved you, Sola dear, since my eyes first beheld you, and I vowed then and there I would make you my wife and Princess if you would have me. I had made up my mind to ask you to be my wife before we reached home, and while you was showing me the difference in our stations I was trying to plan a way to tell you of my love, and when you said those words, saying it would break your heart to see Vgonda my wife, I would not hesitate any longer in putting my fate in your hands. Will your answer be yes or no?" And you may rest assured that Sola's answer was "Yes," and Prince M'Teara sealed the answer with a kiss and saying, "I will tell my father as soon as we reach home, I do not think he will be so awful angry about it when I tell him my future wife is the daughter of his only brother." "Did your father ever tell you why my father left home?" asked Sola. "He said something to me about your father wanting to see the world and I took it for granted that is why he left." Sola felt overjoyed and a look of triumph come over her face, for she knew if her uncle had not told his son as yet, though he would tell him later why her father left home. And when she would see her uncle she would beg him not to tell M'Teara. King Rabba Rega had not told his son M'Teara of Nauyora's treachery to his family. He just could not make up his mind to tell his son.

Even after Prince M'Teara told Sola so bravely how he would tell his father of his love for her, and she is the one he will have for his wife and no other. As he neared home his resolve begins to break. For that was one of the things he hated most to do, and that was to disobey his father's wish. At last Prince M'Teara and Sola Smith reached their destination. King Raba Rega meets them when they made their arrival with the pomp due to a Prince and Princess. For he had heralded it among his people that his son was expected home at any time and was to bring with him his niece, Princess Sola. And he also had a grand reception at the palace in honor of their homecoming. Vgonda came with her uncle to meet them, but how shocking she looked to M'Teara, for she was in her native costume and she looked quite savage. M'Teara looked at her with much disgust; and poor Vgonda looked at M'Teara and saw the look of disgust. She would not have minded. But before this beautiful fine looking lady at his side. And with her looking with scorn and disgust, certainly did make poor Vgonda feel humiliated. King Rabba Rega told his niece, "Queen Vgonda," of what time he had expected his son home. She herself had just returned home from school and abroad, and she looked every day for her cousin to make his appearance. Her uncle had also told of his other niece who was to come over with his son. And saying "My dear Vgonda, I'm hoping you and Sola will be the best of friends."

And so had Queen Vgonda hoped for that. As far as herself was concerned, she intended to be one of Sola's best friends. And she would do what her day dreams had shown her. She and her cousin Sola would make the best of companions. She was anxious for the day when cousin M'Teara and cousin Sola arrived. She longed for that day to come. And when her uncle came to her and told her to get ready to go with him to meet cousin Sola and M'Teara, she was overjoyed and rushed from the room to make ready to meet them. She threw aside the beautiful gown and her wonderful jewels she wore and donned that savage costume, hoping it would make M'Teara feel more at home. When she and M'Teara were children, they

would wear those costumes and play they were living in the old way like their grandfathers lived before Dr. Livingston came among them and taught them the white man's creed. When she reappeared before her uncle in the costume, he was surprised and asked why she had put those things on? and says, "are you going out of your mind or are you playing a joke?" "I'm not playing a joke or out of my mind either, uncle. I promised M'Teara I would be dressed like this when he returned home, providing I arrived home first. And, if he arrived first he was to do likewise. So you see I'm keeping my compact. Don't you remember, we three had a hearty laugh over it?" Then king Rabba Rega says, "I do remember, and I wonder if M'Teara will." They gave another hearty laugh. "But you must remember Sola will be with him, and suppose he will forget to tell her of the scene we prepared for M'Teara's home coming. If he has not told her, she will be frightened at seeing you." "I hardly think so, uncle," says Queen Vgonda. "You must remember, uncle, that she too is the granddaughter of a once savage king. And remember, the provision of our law is when we go to war, we lay down the white man's creed there and fight and dress in our savage way. That is when we fight another savage tribe. But if fighting a white man, we fight the white man's way. We do not know, uncle, how soon we might be called out to fight, so you see it is best to don them once in a while to remind me that I'm not thoroughly civilized." Her uncle smiles and says, "I guess you right, Miss Savage, so come along." And that is how Queen Vgonda becomes to wear that savage outfit. And standing humiliated before the disgusting eyes of Prince M'Teara and haughtily scornful eyes of Princess Sola.

## CHAPTER 3.

Miss Sola was not frightened as king Rabba Rega thought she might be, for she had often heard her father describe his native dress. In fact, her father had told her many times of how his people lived at home. When her eyes first beheld queen Vgonda in that particular outfit, she was surprised. For her father had told her that his people had become civilized. King Rabba Rega saw the embarrassed condition of all three and came to the rescue. And reminds M'Teara of queen Vgonda and his parting words, as how the first was to dress when he or she returned home to greet the other. "So you see, my son," says King Rabba Rega, "she was the first to return and she has kept her promise in regards of her greeting you on your return. Vgonda and I were in hopes that you would be glad, and that you would have told Sola about it, so she would not be frightened at seeing her." "No, uncle," says Princess Sola, "I'm not frightened, I've often heard father speak of how his people use to dress, but I was surprised to see one dressed like dear cousin Vgonda to-day. I suppose M'Teara had forgotten to tell me of Vgonda and his promise, how they were to meet again. As far as I'm concerned in the matter, I'm proud to see her dressed in that manner. In seeing her, makes me proud to think that my forefathers and mothers dressed in these clothing." Then she goes up to Vgonda, takes her hand and kisses her, saying, "And this is our dear Vgonda I have heard M'Teara talk so much about. I'm more than glad to meet you, dear Vgonda. I hope we will be the best of friends." "I'm sure he will," says queen Vgonda (and she meant it.) But Princess Sola did not mean what she said, for, while saying those sweet words to innocent Queen Vgonda, was making up her mind to make this young lady's life as miserable as possible. Prince M'Teara embraces his father and greets Queen Vgonda coldly, and trying to make up his mind to tell his father of Princess Sola and his engagement. He imagines he could never make Queen Vgonda his wife and is hoping she does not care for him enough to want to be his wife. After King Rabba Rega embraces his son he then turns to Princess Sola, saying: "I welcome home my child. I will endeavor to make you feel as happy here as you were in America. And I'm going to be father and mother to you in one. This is one of the happiest day's of my life in welcoming my brother's daughter home." He then takes Queen Vgonda and Princess Sola by the hands and says. "I want you two to be like sisters, although you are both my nieces by blood. You are as near to me as if you were my daughters, for I'm taking your father's places." He then takes each in his arms and kisses them. The one a true, innocent maid, the other the form of a maid, but a serpent at heart.

And that is the way he opened his eden to the serpent, in the form of his brother's child. Prince M'Teara had been home some time, and he had not as yet told his father of his love for Princess Sola. Try as he could, he could not tell his father or even talk on the subject of his future. When in his father's company, he was restless and avoided him as much as possible, fearing his father would talk on the subject of his marriage to Queen Vgonda. King Rabba Rega noticed it but said nothing. But his heart is heavy, for he can see, by watching his son and his niece Sola, how

things stood. He had made up his mind not to approach the subject until his son should bring the subject about. So he made up his mind to wait. There was another with a sad heart, and that other was Queen Vgonda. Try as she would, she could not like Princess Sola. It seemed to her that her cousin Sola was playing a part. She saw her cousin M'Teara's eyes, the look of infatuation he conceived for Sola. He hardly noticed her now, his playmate of old. So there are two heavy hearts in the palace. Time went on. Sola Smith was established in her new home. She lost no time in starting to consummate her father's plans. She, ignorant of his death, sends him a letter after her arrival, but had not received an answer. She also sent a letter to the people she had lived with in America, but had not as yet received an answer.

One of the first things she did after she was settled in her new home was to take out the map her father had given her and study it, so as to find out the location of the cave where the secret wealth lay hidden. And then make friends with the guards if there were guards still there. Her father told her it was best to get friendly with the guards who guarded at night. For he was sure she would have better success in finding out about the secret cave and its chambers. And then at night, no one would be likely to see her. "For you see," says her father, "your uncle has not forgotten what I did, above all things, my child, keep in his good graces." So at times she would tell her uncle and her cousins at different evenings that she was going for a stroll before retiring for the night. In that way she managed to get away and stroll to where the map showed the cave was situated. And sure enough she saw a man there, who looked like a guard. She went up to him and smiles sweetly. And the guard, whose name was Nera, could not do anything but smile back. He could not believe his eyes, seeing a beautiful vision of loveliness standing before him and smiling at him. He knew her and had watched her from afar; and had admired her and had vowed if he could be of any service to her he would be, even if he lost his life in doing so. For that humble guard loved his king's niece. And again fate had put another lucky card in the hand of Princess Sola. Sola thought at first that the guard would be suspicious of her, and was surprised to see how readily he returned her smile, and she saw at once that he would be easily won over. So she flatters him and draws him on like she did Prince M'Teara, until the poor fellow was so much in love with her that he was willing to do her bidding. She then says to him, "What are you guarding so carefully, Nera." As first he would not tell her. She coaxed and pleaded so until at last he said, "I'm guarding precious stones and gold. Some of the stones are like those that hang around your neck, so I'm told." "So you mean to tell me you are guarding things you have never seen?" says Sola. "Yes," says Nera, "I'm guarding things I've never seen. You must remember, I'm in the service of my king, and his secrets are not by business. I'm guarding things I have never seen." "But you could go in to see them if you wish to, can't you?" says Sola. "For I'm sure no one comes near here at night, and if you wish to see for yourself, no one would know you saw them. Listen: I too heard of those precious stones and gold hidden in a cave, and I thought how much fun it would be for me to go and see for myself. So you see that is the reason why I am here, but cannot go any farther, for you will not allow me to. It will be so much fun for you and I to go in and see them. Will you take me to see them?" "I would like to take you to see them," said Nera, "but, I dare not, I'm under an oath to my king and if I break the oath I will be severely punished." "No one need ever know, this will be our secret, Nera." (He ponders awhile before answering) then said: "I will not be able to let you

see them to-night, but will let you see them in a few nights from now." She had to be contended at that. She had already succeeded, better than she thought. But she was so anxious to see inside of the cave and to see the rooms that held the great wealth that her father talked so much about. She was not so anxious to see the jewels as she was to find the way that led to the secret chamber. For that is what she wished to find out most. In the meantime, king Rabba Rega was making preparations for a grand reception, which was to be in honor of his son and nieces. He prepared to make it a grand affair, for he sent out invitations to all the royal families far and near. One of the invited guests was the Sultan Said Bargash. The sultan felt highly honored in being the guest of the mighty King Rabba Rega.

## CHAPTER 4.

Sultan Said Bargash had always regarded the Mokoloho as enemies. For years ago the reigning Sultan and king, who at that time was called Chief Mokoloho, were enemies. They had been engaged in several battles. The Sultan had heard of the civilizing of the Mokoloho, but did not give much credit. The invitation would enable him to go and find out. And then his intentions were at the first opportunity, to overthrow the king (Rabba Rega), and take his kingdom, for he had also heard that there were wealth hidden in King Rabba Rega's dominion. And he had been waiting and watching for the first opportunity to present itself, then he would take a chance for the dominion of Mokoloho. So to the reception he made up the mind to go.

The night of the reception came, there was a grand display of beautiful gowns and wonderful jewels, the decorations in the reception room of the palace all harmonized with the beautiful gowned women and the well groomed men. And seeing the stately King Rabba Rega and Prince M'Teara doing honors of hosts, you would not have believed that their fathers had roamed about these very grounds naked savages. Of all the beautiful ladies present, there were none as beautiful as Queen Vgonda and Princess Sola. M'Teara noticed for the first time how beautiful and stately his cousin, Queen Vgonda, was. And beautiful she was. Her face brown, 'tis true, but it was a perfect face and a form like Venus. Her gown was the finest of the finest, her jewels were priceless, and she looked every inch a queen, even if she were a black one. When Princess Sola saw how grand and stately Queen Vgonda looked, her jealousy knew no bounds. She knew that Queen Vgonda outrivaled her in beauty, although she, Princess Sola, was fair and Queen Vgonda was dark. When she first saw Queen Vgonda in that savage outfit, she really thought her homely. "But tonight how different she looks," thought Princess Sola. Every chance Princess Sola got she would say or do something to hurt Queen Vgonda's feelings. She would call her an "African, or a schooled savage." And everything she thought would make Queen Vgonda miserable she would do. Queen Vgonda would not give her the satisfaction of letting her see how she did hurt her feelings. For when Princess Sola would make those remarks she would pretend not to hear them. Princess Sola's beauty was wonderous; her beauty was of fire and passion, while Queen Vgonda's was the beauty of sweet innocence. The Sultan Said Bargash admired both the royal ladies. But Princess Sola was prefered. Her facinating beauty made his so infatuated with her that he could not keep away from her. And he spent nearly the entire evening by her side.

Princess Sola soon discovered the Sultan's admiration for her and she began to draw him in her net as she did Prince M'Teara and Nera. For she saw where she could also use the Sultan in her plans. She managed to keep the Sultan by her side most of the evening, and by the time for leaving, Said Bargash was more in love with her than ever. In fact more in love that he ever was in his life. And he vowed before many moons she would be installed in his harem. And after he had returned to his home from the reception, his thoughts were still on Princess Sola. And when his favorite wife came to give him his usual caress he drove her from him, for in his mind he saw

Princess Sola standing before him. How delicious she seemed. "Ah," thought he, "I've never had a woman to set my blood afire like this beautiful Sola, I must have her at any cost." "There are two objects I wish to possess, and that is the Dominion of Mokoloh and Princess Sola." Then he makes a vow saying, "Before many moons, the two will be in my possession." Prince M'Teara had noticed his cousin's actions towards the Sultan and her actions had caused him to be a little suspicious. Probably he would not have noticed her actions at all if his father had not told him the night before the whole history of Sola's father's life from start to finish. And after his father, King Rabba Rega, had finished the story he went to bed. But Prince M'Teara did not sleep, he sat far into the morning thinking over the story. Going over it piece by piece. And at last he gave up the problem. But he was certain of one thing, and that was if he had known his uncle's history sooner he would not have asked his cousin Sola to become his wife. For he felt in his heart that no daughter of a man like his uncle Nauyora could ever make a good wife, for Prince M'Teara was like all high minded men. The woman they take for a wife must be of spotless parents. He was glad that he had not told his father of his intentions of marrying his cousin Sola. He then made up his mind to wait awhile and watch, for he felt in his heart that Sola needed watching. That was the reason he was watching her on the night of the reception. So he watched her and saw her flirt with several others, but more particularly with the Sultan; and played with the Sultan as she had played with him. At last he was forced to realize the truth; that she, Princess Sola, was not the innocent maiden she pretended to be, yet, somehow he was not jealous as lovers generally are at seeing their promised wife making or being made over by another. He could not tell why he was not jealous. Instead of that jealous feeling, a glad feeling came. How glad, so very glad he was at heart that he had not hurt his father's feelings by telling him he would not marry Vgonda, but would marry Sola. He knew it would have been painful for his father and himself. But now he was glad to think that, that painful scene will never take place. Then his thoughts wander from Sola to Vgonda and dwell there. He saw her in a different light than he had ever seen her before. And tonight, thought he, "is she not the loveliest being in the assembly rooms?" "and to think I prefered Sola, to her. Fathers are right, they know what is best for their children. I guess I've always loved Vgonda, but had not sense enough to realize it until she entered the room tonight looking so wondrous. It was then my heart gave such a bound; and it has been bounding ever since, when I am in her presence. With Sola I experienced a different sensation, when in her company something seems to fire my blood, I become light headed and I find myself saying things to her I don't want to say. And when I am away from her I feel so different, I almost hate her at times. So I see now what it was; just passion I conceived for her. And there she is drawing the Sultan in the same snare she thinks she has me. There must be something back of it all. I wonder what it can be?" And if Prince M'Teara could only have seen what was back of it all he would have crushed that serpent then and there. The last of the guests at the reception had departed. The reception had been a great success. It was turning to the morning hour when the family bid each other good night or good morning to snatch a few hours sleep. Princess Sola goes to her room like the rest but did not to sleep. For she thought there could not be any better than that morning to visit Nera the guard. She felt sure he would let her visit the secret chamber. So putting her thoughts into action, she throws a long dark cape over her evening gown and slips away from the palace. She keeps under cover as much as possible. She reaches the cave and saw the guard Nera standing there. She glides up to him softly and lays her

hand on his shoulder and says, "Shall you and I enter (pointing to the cave) and see the beauties that little hole possesses?" Nera is very much surprised to see her at that time of the morning and says, "Princess, why is it you are out this time of the morning?" Princess Sola tells him of the reception at the palace, and says, "that is why I'm up so early or late as you might call it. I thought every body at the palace would be so tired they would sleep soundly; and I thought there could be no better time than now to enter the cave and see the secret chamber where the beautiful stones and gold lie." "So come let us enter." (But Nera hesitates). She takes him by the hand and says, "Your King or anyone else need not know the difference." And in the mean time she gives him one of those bewitching smiles. When she gave that smile the poor fellow was completely in that false girl's net, a helpless victim who could not help but do as she wished.

So he leads her into the cave. They went on in silence, he leaving a stream of light as guidance for her from the pine torch. At last they reached the door that led to the chamber. There was the press button that her father had shown her on the maps, and she saw that there had been no change made since her father's and Gorden's visits. How glad she was to find that out. She was so afraid that there had been a change since her father had been there and after he had drawn the map. She need not worry nor bother now as to how to find the entrance after her uncle and cousin were dead. For she was still intending to carry out her father's plans. She then wonders what she will do with this guard when she becomes Queen and rules. Of course, he would become troublesome to her. Well all he had to do was to look out if he became bothersome, (thus her thoughts ran). At last she said to Nera, "So, this is the entrance to the wonderful chamber, let us enter," and Nera says, "How can we enter?" and she answers saying, "We might enter by pressing this button." (She presses the button) then the door flies open and reveals the beautiful splendor of wealth the same her grandfather saw the same her father and his man saw, and the same Philip Gorden and his companions saw and what she, Princess Sola, and Nera the guard saw, and the eyes that beheld the beauties for the first time were always held spellbound. And there they stood with their eyes feasting on the beauties as if enchanted. And thus they stood glued to the spot. Nera comes out of his trance just to hear footsteps approaching. He then draws Princess Sola to his side and whispers to her saying, "I hear footsteps, slip over there in the corner out of the light." And no sooner had Princess Sola done as Nera had bid her do, they heard a voice from out of the darkness saying, "Nera why are you not at your post?" "Have you forgotten the penalty for leaving it?" Nera did not raise his head for he knew who was speaking. He knew only too well whose voice he heard. Then said the voice again, "Who is that with you, who were you talking to a moment ago?" "Oh mighty master, I was just murmuring to myself, said Nera. "Why did you enter the cave, and how did you know how to open it?" "You knew my rules. You were not to enter the cave without my consent." Then the mighty voice waited for Nera to make an answer, but there wasn't any for Nera still stood with a bowed head. Then the voice goes on and says, "You know your orders were if anyone tried to force their way in this cave all you would have had to do was to have given the signal. Speak up man and give an account of your actions." Then after the voice ceased speaking, a form stepped up and it was in the clear of the pine torch: the face of King Rabba Rega was seen, and on his face was the look of anger and dismay. He looked the guilty man over and then said sternly, "You go to your station and wait there until I want you." "Then you must explain to my court the doings of now." "Now go!"

## CHAPTER 5.

Nera with his head bowed not daring to look at his King, leaves the cave. How lucky for Princess Sola that her uncle had his back to her all the time and was many steps from her, doing his interview with Nera. That gave her the chance to slip out without being seen. She then hurried to the palace without meeting anyone. Then to her room she went, and breaths a breath of relief. She then glided to the center of her room and stood like a tigress at bay. She felt safe for a while. But when day light came, what then? She knew if Nera was brought to the trial he would be forced to tell all. Then her case would be like her father's. "I must prevent all of that," thought she. "What a fool I was for not waiting a while longer" she said to herself. But the anxiety for starting her work of revenge got the better of her. She then thought of her father and wished she could hear from him; so if the worse came she would have him to go to. I wonder why I don't hear from him, her thoughts ran. Then her thoughts came back to her of the present moments and she said, "I must put away my thoughts of him now, and look out for myself and my safety." She then stands in a thinking attitude. She gave a start for a thought had struck her. A murderous look came into her eyes, she then crossed the room to her dressing table, opened the drawer, took from it a little vial. She held the vial up to the light and laughed the laugh of a demon. She then glided to the door, opened it, looked up and down the hall and saw no one. She then stepped into the hall and closed her door, glided down the hall and stopped at the door she knew was the door that opened her uncle's room. (Her mind was on what she was doing and nothing else). She reached for the nob, turned it and the door opened. She glided through the door then closed it softly. Then she glided to the table where the decanters were sitting with her uncle's wines in them. She selected the one that she knew he would drink from before retiring. She took the stopper from the decanter, then with a shaking hand raised to her bosom, she brings out the vial and empties its contents into the decanter. Then she glided from the room and down the hall and entered her own room again. This was how it was that King Rabba Rega came upon Nera in surprise on that fatal morning after the last of the guests had departed; he did not feel like retiring immediately so he went out on the veranda to have a quite smoke. He seated himself in a corner where the vines were thickest. He sat there quietly smoking and thinking of the future of the three children and wondering why his son did not come to him to have the final interview regarding the marriage. "I would hate to see M'Teara throw himself away on Sola, though she is my brother's daughter. I would not like to see M'Teara's happiness placed in her hands, and somehow, I am not against her but I cannot bring myself to love her as I should. There is a look in her eyes that makes me distrust her." Thus, he gives a long sigh and murmurs, "My poor boy if you would love Vgonda, Oh, how happy I would be this night!" If he had only known his son's love for Sola was dying a sure death he would at that moment be smiling with happiness. He threw away the leavings of the cigar he had been smoking and started to rise to go in, when he heard a slight noise; he looked in the direction of the sound just in time to see a form gliding out into the darkness. He wondered who could be prowling about that hour of morning. He meditated

for a while, then a thought came to him of the cave. He thinks and his thoughts ran thus; All is safe at the cave entrance, for I know my guard can be trusted. And if there is any danger he will give the signal. I guess I had better follow the form, and if this form has any dirty intentions towards the guard I will be near to help the guard. And if it was my imagination of seeing a form, a little walk will not hurt me. So he took the trail and followed the form, and to his surprise, the form took the trail which lead to the cave. And to the cave he also went. And you could imagine his greater surprise when he saw the mouth of the cave unguarded.

He entered the cave and as he neared the secret chambers he heard voices, he distinguished the voice of Nera but could not tell to whom the other voice belonged. He drew nearer, the light of the pine torch left a ray of light for King Rabba Rega to be guided by. And by that light, King Rabba Rega distinguished the form and the face of the guard Nera. Upon making the discovery he was shocked and could not speak or move for some time. For the guard, Nera, he always had the greatest trust and never once thought he would betray his King's family secrets. He had always esteemed Nera to the highest in trust, and Nera's father before him was regarded with the same trust. And then he asked Nera to explain why he was away from his post; but he could not tell why, and when he asked Nera who was with him and he said, "No one," he knew Nera had lied. King Rabba Rega knew his ears had not deceived him, he knew he had heard another voice. And had he (King Rabba Rega) not followed the form to the cave. "Oh," thought he, for a thought had entered his mind. That form and Nera had an appointment, and it was to enter the chamber, and that form is the one who was responsible for Nera's doings. That form had an influence over Nera, such an appointment that Nera would have rather died than to give the guilty party away. And that party was from the palace (he felt sure of that). The form said he was to slender for a man; he stopped thinking for a minute, and then murmurs, "Can it be.....?" He just could not go any farther with his own thoughts. He then said to Nera, "You go to your station and remain there until I want you." After Nera had gone, King Rabba looked around the cave and saw no one. He went into the first secret chamber, looked around but saw no one. He says to himself, "Nera must tell who was with him. He (King Rabba Rega) does not care who it was, Nera must tell." The King decided to leave Nera to guard until daylight, then the watch would change and the day guard would take the station. After King Rabba Rega left the cave he went to his police court and swore out a warrant for the arrest of Nera saying, "The arrest must not take place until after he has left duty." King Rabba Rega told his police captain he had better sent out men right away to watch Nera, but not arrest him until he left duty, unless he acted suspicious. King Rabba Rega then went to the palace to get a few hours sleep. On his way to the palace he thought of Nera and the mysterious form. He was both anxious and dreading to know who the person was. King Rabba Rega then went to his room, looked at the clock and saw that it was nearly daybreak and thought it was not necessary to undress. He just took off his evening coat and put on his lounging robe. Then went to the table, took up the decanter that Princess Sola had a few hours ago, emptied the contents of the vial in. He filled a glass, then drank all of its contents. Then threw himself on the lounge with the intentions of getting some sleep. But he did not get any sleep for in a few minutes he began to have a queer sensation about the stomach, and a sharp pain that seemed to grow sharper every minute. He was just able to ring for his servant. And when the servant appeared he was much surprised to find his King in an almost unconscious condition. King Rabba Rega was able to tell the servant to go

for his son and tell him to come right away. "I will go for him right away, but your majesty had better get a doctor also." "Yes go for the doctor after you have sent my son to me. I'm afraid I'm past the doctor's aid. Please also send Queen Vgonda to me. Tell her I'm sorry to have to disturb her at this time of the morning. Tell her my condition, and break the news as gently as possible." "Shall I notify Princess Sola of your condition?" asked the servant. King Rabba Rega thought a moment, then said, "Tell Princess Sola to dress in her best and come to the throne room inside of an hour. Tell her I have a surprise for her there." King Rabba Rega was sure that Sola had everything to do with the condition of things. "Why had I not heeded my fathers warning," thought he. "In not having Nauyora or his here." "If I had heeded his warning, I would not be in this dying condition today. And I'm sure, Sola, the daughter of Nauyora is responsible." "Oh, if I could just live long enough to try Nera, I'm sure I would find the guilty one. (Sola). If I just could live long enough to denounce her, I could die contented." "I see it all now, Nauyora was my enemy, although I was his brother, he hated me and it all comes clear to me now" said the dying King aloud. For his dying eyes could see what he had not seen before. "Nauyora hated me because I was heir to the throne and he was not. I often wondered why he gave me that look of hate at times. I see, it all comes clear to me now." "Oh Nauyora! father was right, the evil one had possession of you, and your daughter Sola has inherited it from you. But I'm thinking Nauyora," he says shaking his hand (as if Nauyora his brother stood before him). "Your evil daughter will not win her point. My children will not let her." Just then Prince M'Teara entered and saw his father in that tragic attitude. And after King Rabba Rega had said those last few words, his strength left and he was sinking to the floor. And Prince M'Teara was just in time to catch him in his arms at the same time say, "Why father, what can be the matter?" "When I saw you last you were smiling and seeming happy and here at this hour of the morning I'm summoned to your room; and when I arrive I find you all excited and exhausted, and looking so queer." "My son," said King Rabba Rega (in a weak voice and looking at his son with dying eyes)" It is this: I have been poisoned by an unknown hand. I will explain it all to you as best as I can after I finish with the matter I have on hand now. My time is short and I want to be as brief as possible. I want to talk to you on the most important of the many things I want to say to you; for before another hour, I will be gone from you." Prince M'Teara had helped his father to the lounge and was kneeling beside him weeping, his sobs shook his whole large form. He knew what a loss he would feel, when his father passed away and how he would miss him for he and his father were more like brothers than father and son. The outside room of the king was filled with people for the servant had aroused the whole house, and had sent a messenger out to herald all Mokoloh and Bechuana of their King's condition, and to look any moment to hear of his death. King Rabba Rega placed his hand on his son's head and said, "Let us try and be brave my son, and make the best of it, and do me one favor before I go, I feel what I am asking you to do is for your own good." He paused a while and Prince M'Teara noticed his breath got shorter and his breathing harder. King Rabba Rega then said, "M'Teara the favor I ask of you is this: Will you marry Vgonda before I die? I want to see her happy, and fulfill my promise to her parents. To unite Mokoloh, and Bechuana and make them one, you will never regret it. Vgonda will make you an ideal wife, for she loves you my son." Prince M'Teara gave a start, a look of happiness came into his eyes. He says eagerly, "How do you know she loves me father?" "She confessed her love for you to me," said King Rabba Rega, "that is how I came to know." "Father," said Prince M'Teara, "you do not know what a happy man

you have made me for I love Vgonda in return." It was King Rabba Rega's turn to be surprised, and he labored to say, "What about Sola?" "I thought you loved her." "Father I must confess I thought I loved Sola at first, but after being with the two girls daily, I had time to study each character. I found Vgonda's spotless; Sola's questionable. You see Vgonda's has the kindest nature. The more you are with her, the more you would want to be. Until at last you feel that you cannot do without her." "Sola so different, when I am in her presence, she inspired me with a consuming fire that seemed to influence my whole being. And it seemed that I could not keep from taking her in my arms and crushing her to my bosom and glue my hot burning lips to hers. But when away from her father, I hate to say the word, but I hate her. So you see the feelings I conceive for Sola is just a passion. My feeling for Vgonda is love; and I am only too willing to marry her now. That, is, if she is willing. Queen Vgonda soon appeared and like Prince M'Teara was surprised to see her uncle in a dying condition. She went up to the lounge where he lay and knelt on the other side. She could hardly ask her uncle what was the trouble, crying at the first glance she saw him. When she first saw him she knew he was dying. King Rabba Rega was sinking fast. He was just able to ask Queen Vgonda would she marry M'Teara before he died, and told her that M'Teara had confessed his love for her to him. And asked her if she would at his wish. "I had made up my mind to declare my love to you and to lay my happiness and love at your feet" said Prince M'Teara. "I was afraid you would object to my loving you, Vgonda." "Twas true Vgonda that as children we loved, but I was afraid your love had changed since you had grown and in your travels you had met some one else. And that is why I made up my mind to wait; although my love for you had never changed, Vgonda, and if you will accept my love and be my wife, it will make me the happiest man on earth." (The latter part of the speech was true, for he had found in his breast that he loved Queen Vgonda dearly). Prince M'Teara and his father thought it would be best to keep the affair with Princess Sola a secret from Vgonda. It would do no good to let her know. And no harm would come from her not knowing. Oh, how Queen Vgonda's heart did flutter when she heard those words from M'Teara's lips. And to think that she was to be his wife. And to think, thought she, "I doubted him, and he loving me all the time he was flirting with Sola." Then she thought for a second and in her mind she said, "Did he flirt with Sola or did she flirt with him?" Her mind went over different scenes, when he and Sola were together and at last she came to the conclusion that it was Sola who did the flirting and that was another case where love was blind. Prince M'Teara brings her mind back to the scene by saying, "Vgonda what will your answer be, yes or no?" Queen Vgonda said, looking at Prince M'Teara with love light in her eyes, (and Prince M'Teara saw from that look that there was hope but he wanted to be sure by hearing her say yes) "I will marry you M'Teara said Queen Vgonda not only because my parents wished it but because I love you and have loved you all my life." With joy Prince M'Teara took Queen Vgonda in his arms and kissed her. With their new discovery they forgot that their father and uncle had drawn nearer to the gates of the other world. They were brought back from their blissful happiness by the weak voice of King Rabba Rega saying, "God bless you my children and may he watch over you when I am gone. For the evil one is in our midst. He has come amongst us in the form of a human being. So beware of him my children. He has struck one and he will strike again, so beware. I have the guard, Nera in prison. I will talk with you about him a little later." Then he turned his eyes to Queen Vgonda and said, "Are you willing to marry M'Teara now? I want to see the marriage ceremony performed before I pass away." And

Queen Vgonda said, "Yes uncle, I am willing to marry , if M'Teara is." And Prince M'Teara said, "I'm more than willing." 1 That settles it," said King Rabba Rega. "You will have to hurry for in a few minutes I will be gone." He then turned to M'Teara and motioned to him to touch the button to call the servant. And when the servant came, Prince M'Teara told him to summon all the gentlemen and ladies of the court, the servants of the palace sent a messenger to herald all Mokoloh and Bechuana and tell them the marriage of Prince M'Teara and Queen Vgonda is about to take place. And tell all the nobelities to assemble in the throne room in less than an hour. For the marriage will take place there. After the servant left to fulfill the orders, King Rabba Rega insisted on his son ringing for his valet. And when his valet made his appearance, King Rabba Rega insisted on being dressed in his royal robe. With all his misery and suffering while the valet dressed him, he did not murmur.

## CHAPTER 6.

After he was dressed in his robe he had the valet place his crown on his head. Then the valet with the assistance of Prince M'Teara carried him to the throne room and propped him up in the throne seat. All the noble families of the two dominions had already gathered in the throne room. The minister soon appeared and a few moments later, Queen Vgonda made her appearance, and by her side was her bosom friend Sadie Mala. Prince M'Teara and Queen Vgonda advanced to the altar. The minister opened his bible. Prince M'Teara and Queen Vgonda stood side by side, King Rabba Rega sat looking on with happiness in his dying eyes for the marriage ceremony had begun.

When Princess Sola received her uncle's message to go to the throne room saying a surprise awaited her she could not make it out. (The fact is the way she first received her uncle's message, she heard it through the key hole from the servant delivering it to her maid). At first she thought her uncle suspected her. She wondered if Prince M'Teara had told his uncle of his love for her. She was more than anxious to go and see what that surprise could be. But she hated to face her uncle and look into his dying eyes knowing that through her he was dying. She knew how long it took the deadly poison to do its work. After Princess Sola had put the poison in her uncle's wine and had succeeded in reaching her room without being seen, she threw herself on the divan. After she had lain there for a few minutes she rang for her maid, and when the maid came, Princess Sola sat up and yawned, rubbed her eyes and said. "Werina, what time is it?" Werina told her the time and said, "I've been waiting to hear you ring." "I intended to ring for you, said her mistress, after I lain here and rested for a while. I was much more tired than I thought. I'm glad we do not give balls and receptions every night, because if uncle did I would be completely worn out. I guess it was the dancing that fatigued me. It must be near day break," went on the mistress trying to make her voice sound as a matter of fact. "If you had waited a few seconds longer I would have come to you and seen what was the matter. "Well, that is something I had never done before, that is to drop down without unrobing and going to sleep," and the maid believed her mistress's lies, and began to unrobe her. And after unrobing her she puts her mistress to bed; turns off the light and leaves the room. No sooner had the door closed behind the maid, when Princess Sola bounded from the bed; rushed to the door and turned the key in the lock. Then withdrew the key and laid it aside. Then drags a chair close to the door then sits there with her ear to the key hole to hear and see who came and went. She knew what happened from the discovery of her uncle's condition up to the time of the preparation for the wedding. When she heard the word wedding, she wondered who's wedding. "Oh, I have it," thought she, "the surprise uncle sent word he had for me is he has consented to M'Teara's and my marriage. And has arranged to have it performed before he died. I see now why he told me to dress in my best. In my best I will dress and look as much the bride as possible."

What fun it will be to father when he hears of it, and how easy his plans are working. That old fool uncle of mine received me in his home, I repaid him by poisoning him. And then he sent for me to marry his son,

then blesses us. And says, "I am leaving his happiness in your hands, Sola and know you will make him happy." Then he dies. Then there will be a victim less. Then I will start in looking out for M'Teara's happiness and in a few months his happiness will end like his father's, in the grave. Oh, daddy how well your daughter is carrying out your plans of revenge. Won't you have a hearty laugh when you hear. "I've won it father, and we will be here reigning as this man reigned. Oh, how I hate him! how I hate him! how I hate Prince M'Teara and Queen Vgonda! When the time comes, how I will crush her. Oh, how I hate them all, I wish I could kill each before the world and say I killed them, because I hated them; And if someone was to ask why I hated them, I would answer and I would say: "I have no reason for hating them; I just hate them." Princess Sola had worked herself up with her mind on her hatred for the three. That if anyone had seen her at that time and moment they would quail with fear, fearing she would mistake them for the ones she hated. At last she come to herself and rang for her maid. And when the maid came, Princess Sola told her to get a gown that would make her look as much as a bride as possible without a veil. "And make me, said Princess Sola." "look my best." And the maid made her look her best. The maid said, "My Princess, how did you get the message?" The message was given to me, I knew you was asleep so I thought I would not disturb you for a little while. I timed the time and thought I would let you sleep as long as possible, then I intended to deliver your message, and then dress you. Even then you would have been in time." Princess Sola was caught off her guard, but she found a ready answer for her maid. She said, "That was very kind of you Werina, to think of my comfort. I appreciate you for it. I happened to be awake and heard the servant give you the message, I would have called you right away and told you to dress me so I could go to my uncle, but a fit of weeping got the better of me, my grief became so great I fainted, and just a few minutes ago I came too." "My poor Princess," said the maid, to think you had to go through that all alone "I will keep near you after this."

Princess Sola gave the maid a sarcastic look but said nothing. She went to the mirror and surveyed herself. And what she saw there pleased her vanity. In the mirror she saw a vision of beauty and loveliness. "No wonder." thought she, "that M'Teara is wild about me, am I not beautiful?" But I'm not going to waste this beauty in Africa. After I become a widow, I intend to go around the world and enjoy myself. I will not be a negress any longer, I will pass for white. Father must help me sign a business compact. He, the throne; I, the secret chamber. Father must let me have diamonds and gold for my work. "I wonder" mused she, "if I would have undertook this plan if it had not been for the wealth. I'm afraid I would not have bothered. Just let father work it out with his own revengence, with his old foolish ex-savage people. Because I believe once savage always savage in spite of education. If I had not inherited my father's nature I would not be as blood thirsty as I am. A woman without a heart; a woman without a conscience. I hardly believe I care much for father, I cannot feel in my heart a spark of love for him, and as for mother, I felt the same towards her as I do father. I know I'm a peculiar being." Thus Princess Sola's thoughts ran as she stood surveying herself in the mirror. At last she turned from the mirror and told the maid she could go. After the maid left, Princess Sola stood there for a while surveying the room and said, "I leave you as Princess Sola but will return to you as Queen Sola of Mokolohó." She then straightens herself up in a stately pose with a mocking smile on her face and then leaves her room. With that stately pose she entered the throne room.

Her eyes roamed over the room and what a startling sight she beheld. King Rabba Rega seated on the throne, bedecked in his royal robe, his dying eyes looking eagerly and happily in the same direction where all eyes were looking. Her eyes followed their gaze, and behold, there stood Prince M'Teara. Who was that beside him? And he holding her hand; there stood a man before them; "Why, thought she, "the man is a minister; and what is that he is saying?" "I pronounce you man and wife." Everything seemed to be going around and around before Princess Sola's gaze. She pinched herself to see if she was dreaming. Her mind goes back to the words, "I pronounce you man and wife." "Who was the wife" thought she? "I cannot be in two places, here and there. If not I the wife, then who?" She looked closer then staggered backward and shrieked out the word "Vgonda" and then swayed. Everyone in the room heard her shriek and some one near was just in time to catch her before she sank to the floor. For the shock was too great for Princess Sola's overstrained nerves, and she had fainted. When she came too, she was just in time to see King Rabba Rega giving the newly married couple his blessings. Just then he raised his head and his eyes met hers. He then rose from his seat and said, "Come Princess Sola be the first to do homage to your future King and Queen. On your knees to Queen Vgonda, to show her that hereafter you intend to be her humble servant." It was humiliating but she had to do it. Oh, how this humiliation hurt her, for she had hinted to so many of the assembled people that she and Prince M'Teara were engaged.

## CHAPTER 7.

After she had done as King Rabba Rega had bid her do, her eyes sought his once more. Although his eyes were closing to this world, she saw the look of triumph there. She could not bear to see any more. So she rushes from the room to her own room and slammed the door and locked it. And to think after all she had done she had lost. She raised her beautiful hand and shook it in the direction of the throne room and said aloud, "I'm not through with you yet. I got you Rabba Rega, and I'll get the others," she raised her hand up above her head and said, "I swear, I will not rest until I destroy the whole family of yours, Rabba Rega and the ones that married into your family, and your children that are to come," she then fell on her bed and gave away to crying, at last exhausted, she fell asleep and that was the way her maid found her. The mail had just arrived, and in the mail was a foreign letter addressed to her mistress. Her maid brought the letter to her room and found her sleeping. She laid the letter on the table and left the room very quietly. After Princess Sola went the formalities of seluting the newly married couple, the rest of the assembly followed suite. After King Rabba Rega had told Princess Sola to do homage to the couple and gave Princess Sola that triumphant look, he sank back heavily in his seat. His mission had been accomplished; he had witnessed the uniting of the two Kingdoms; and then he was ready to go. So while the people were welcoming the Queen, he slipped away to the world beyond. So ended the days of the oldest son of King Mokoloh, whose two sons died tragic deaths. One by hand of the other, For it was through Nauyora that Rabba Rega met his death. King Rabba Rega was laid in the tomb with his forefathers. King M'Teara then reigned and was King over one of the greatest Kingdoms in Africa. After the burial of King Rabba Rega, King M'Teara then took up the affairs of his father, where he left off. And one of the affairs was the case of Nera. King M'Teara gave three chances to tell. And Nera would not tell, for the Princess Sola had sent word to him through her maid telling him to keep the secret, and she would see that no harm would come to him. And he sent the maid back to Princess Sola saying, he would not tell no matter what happened he would keep the secret. And when King M'Teara tried for the third time to wring the explanation from Nera, he had the same experience as the first and second. Princess Sola sent her maid with a written message to Nera saying, "As long as you do not commit yourself, King M'Teara cannot do you any harm, but turn you from the dominion. And when he does, take this note and show it to Sultan Said Bargash, and he will take you in. And in the meantime I will try to see you and make some arrangements for your future." She signed no name, although he knew who it was from.

\* \* \* \* \*

After King M'Teara tried Nera for the third time, and he would not explain why the late King Rabba Rega had him placed in jail, King M'Teara thought like his father, Nera was shielding someone. King M'Teara knew his father never imprisoned anyone without a cause. King M'Teara knew that Nera had violated the law some way. King M'Teara wished that he had

insisted upon his father telling him of the affair. For King M'Teara believed in his heart if he could get Nera to talk he would find out who murdered his father. He knew Nera did not do it, for he heard of everything his father did before he went to his room. King M'Teara was for several days (after the funeral of his father) trying to get to the bottom of the mystery that surrounded his father's death, but hadn't any success so far.

So he turned the case over to the detectives and told them to do what they could with the case. King M'Teara did as Princess Sola thought he would do. After he had tried Nera for the third time and Nera would not talk, King M'Teara drove him from the dominion.

\* \* \* \* \*

We left Princess Sola lying on her bed asleep. Soon after she awakened the first thing she saw was the letter the maid had left. At first she thought it was from her father, but no, that was not her father's hand writing. She began to open it. "I wonder, thought she, why my hands shake so." She managed at last to get the envelope open. Then took out the letter in a matter of fact manner first, then an eager look came into her eyes; then a look of agony and pity. Then the look dies away, and as the look fades her face pales, and with that pale look her face hardens and becomes set. She murmurs to herself, "he is gone; they killed him. I asked myself a while back did I love my father? I guess I do a little for I feel a little flutter and kind of sad aching here" (placing a hand over her heart). One or two tears dropped from her eyes. That showed that Princess Sola's heart had not as yet turned to stone, but was turning. Thus she sat in her grief, 'Till at last she said aloud (only the walls heard) "Father, I hope you hear me from the spirit world, I will keep my oath to you even after death. I will carry out your revenge." Then she sat down and wrote that message to Nera. After she had called her maid, and sent the message, she sat down on the chair and meditated. At last she said aloud, "Ha, Mr. M'Teara, I have fixed things with you now. By Nera keeping my secret will enable me to stay here, and stay here I must for I must have my revenge on you and Vgonda; and carry out poor father's plans. 'Tis true he will not be here to reign on the throne, but I, his daughter will reign in his stead." Her thoughts ran on in weaving her new plans. First said she aloud, "I must part M'Teara and Vgonda, that I know will be easy .For I know that M'Teara was forced in that hateful marriage by his father. His father dead, I can easy get him to set it aside and, then....Oh well, there is hopes yet for me being Queen Sola. And when I become a widow I will not have to share with father, I will have the whole of the throne; and the secret chamber. Why the whole business is worth fighting for. There is wealth in that rock, (pointing in the direction of the secret chamber). That could buy the whole of North and South America, and then there would be plenty left. After I am Queen and I become a widow, I'm going back to America, and if there is any way to revenge the killing my father I will do so. I will go to the extreme just to have that revenge, if I have to hire those to blow up the whole United States." What a demon that Sola Smith was at heart. She was a great deal worse than her father. And thus she still sat working out her plans. At last she calls her maid, and when her maid arrives, she said, "Werina, tell King M'Teara that I wish to see him here in my apartment at his earliest convenience." "I will, my princess," said the maid, and withdrew from her mistress' presence to deliver the message.

## CHAPTER 8.

King M'Teara was with his wife when the maid delivered Princess Sola's message. He sent word back by the maid that he would be with her shortly. King M'Teara dreaded the interview with Princess Sola. Although he knew it would have to come sooner or later. Thus he sat in a deep thought when his wife, Queen Vgcnda, said, "M'Teara dear, I think she wishes to talk about her future. You see, her position here is not like it was when uncle lived. I'm sure that is what she wishes to converse with you." M'Teara said nothing, but looked at Queen Vgonda and smiled, and thought, "what a sweet trusting little body she is. What a fool I have been in regards to Sola, but I guess I am cured now, I'm sure Sola cannot awake in me an ounce of passion. For now my heart and soul is wrapped up in my little Vgonda." As he left to go to Princess Sola, he looked back at his wife and smiled, and she smiled at him in return. Oh, how happy those two were in their love. The one shadow in their happiness was the memory of their father and uncle's sad ending.

After Princess Sola had sent her maid Werina with the message to King M'Teara, asking him to come to her and receiving as an answer, he would be with her shortly, she set about making herself look as attractive as she could. She then powdered her face to make herself look the invalid too. And when she heard King M'Teara's footsteps, she threw herself on the divan and assumed a very weary look, that she thought would fetch King M'Teara to her feet. But there she was mistaken. When King M'Teara knocked at the door and she bid him come in (in a sad weary voice she used for the occasion), she thought when he would open the door and see her in that attitude, he would rush to her with outstretched arms and with a look of pity and love in his eyes. But when he opened the door, he looked at her with a cold, questionable look on his face. And after he entered he asked her in a cold matter of fact way, how she was feeling. Princess Sola was taken aback at the meeting. For how she had looked for the meeting to be so different. Did he suspect her crime? What had her uncle told him before he died? She was sure Nera had not breathed a word of her secret. Well, she thought if he was turning from her she felt she could bring him back. She thought that he was not strong enough to be indifferent to her charms. King M'Teara stood before her with a cold and an uneasy look, until she said to him with a assumed and sweet smile, "Will you be seated, M'Teara, I sent for you because I'm so lonely and miserable. Just to think what I have gone through. First dear uncle's tragic ending. When I first heard of him dying, I started to his room immediately, but before I got to that door (pointing to the door to her room) everything swam around me and then I plunged into darkness. And when I came back from the darkness I was lying on my bed, and my maid standing over me, chafing my hands and bathing my face with cold water. My maid then told me (went on Sola in a voice which sounded like she was trying to choke back tears) that uncle wanted me to dress in my best and come to the throne room, for he had a surprise waiting for me. Oh, how happy I felt, M'Teara, for I thought that surprise concerned your and my marriage

and happiness. I thought he had given his consent to our marriage. So I got up and had my maid dress me in my best. How I got to the throne room, I hardly knew, for I was so faint. But I managed to get there. You could imagine how I felt when I saw you and dear Vgonda before the altar, being united in marriage. Oh, M'Teara, I thought at first it was all a mistake and I was dreaming. And at last when it was dawning on me it was only too true, no one could blame me for shrieking out Vgonda's name and fainting. And from that hour on, M'Teara, my heart has been breaking. I have not been able to leave my room."

Princess Sola paused and looked up under her lashes to see what an impression her words were making on King M'Teara. His jaws were set; his lips in a hard line; he was not looking at her. His eyes were looking beyond her in a space. For somehow he had not believed a word she said was true, since his passion for her had worn off. Every time he saw this woman he liked her less. He felt sure by now she was playing a part. He was wondering since his father's death how to get rid of her. He had already made up his mind to make her wealthy in her own right and spare no money in getting her father's pardon. And then settling a large sum of money on him. And then have his uncle take her to some other city or country and start life anew. And that would enable his cousin to be independent. And then she could flirt as much as she liked, when tired of flirting she would settle down and marry. He hoped she would by then become a better woman. He made up his mind to tell her this, just the night before. So while Princess Sola had paused in her narration, his mind went back to his plans. And he thought, "Now is the time to tell her of my plan." As far as feeling sorry for her and loving her, he could not do either. The words of his grandfather rang in his ears. "When you bring Nauyora, or his back, evil will befall you." And has not evil come? He can't but feel that this woman was in some way responsible for it. So he told Princess Sola his plans for her and her father. A look of anger came into Sola's face. And she said, "Then I was nothing to you after all; you loved Vgonda all the time you were playing with me and pretending that you loved me." "I thought I loved you, Sola," he said, "but I found out I did not love you. I did not want a woman who would flirt as you did with that detestful Sultan." "Then you were jealous," said Sola. "No, I was not jealous. I will be honest with you, I did not feel the least jealous. I was just disgusted with you. It was then I found I did not love you." "When you found you did not love me you found you did love Vgonda. Am I right?" "You are right," said he. "I'm glad you acted as you did, for it showed me where my duty lay. Your actions showed me the way to find the heart of one of the finest and purest women that walks on the face of the earth. And not only that, it showed me how to do my duty to my family." "I could not help it that the Sultan was constantly at my side that evening. I was enjoying myself so much with them all I did not notice my actions, M'Teara, for my love was then yours and is now yours. O, M'Teara, how can I stand and see you the husband of another, and loving her as you say you do. M'Teara dear, you are all I have left now. Read this." She handed him the letter she had received. King M'Teara read the letter and his heart did soften towards her, for she really was alone. She had no one but him to look to. His plans had to go. He was forced to let her stay with him. He looked at his cousin, she was crying softly or pretending to be crying King M'Teara took her in his arms and pillow'd her head on his shoulder and said, "There, dear cousin, do not cry, it is hard for you, I know, but let us try and make the best of it. Vgonda and I will take care of you. We will be mother, father, sister and brother in all. Your home is here as

long as there is a dominion called Mokoloh Bechuana." That was the name the two joined dominions were called after they were united. King M'Teara then arranged Princess Sola's pillows and laid her head back among them and cuddled her as if she was a child. Then he gave her a brotherly kiss on the forehead and pulled down the shades and told her to sleep a while. He then went out softly and closed the door. "Just to think all my passion for her has gone," thought he, and how glad I am to find it so. Then he goes back to his wife and tells her of the news of his uncle's death. And she sympathizes with her husband for Princess Sola. No sooner then King M'Teara left Princess Sola, she bounded from the divan with the look of a tigress on her face. "So, that is how I stand in this house, as an object of charity! Oh, I've played my hand, and what have I gained? M'Teara and Vgonda, I'm not through with you yet. I've gained one point, at that point I will stay here with you. On that point hangs my future plans."

Two years had passed. King M'Teara and Queen Vgonda are the happy parents of a son and heir to the throne. Princess Sola is with them. The King and Queen are making preparations for the celebration of the christening of their son. Princess Sola is also making preparations for the beginning of her vengeance. I will go back into the passing two years. The ruler of England sent Henry Stanley again to Mokoloh Bechuana to find out for sure if the wealth was really there and tell King M'Teara that his ruler wished to buy his dominion. Henry Stanley went to Mokoloh Bechuana and was kindly received by King M'Teara. He delivered his king's message to King M'Teara and said, "My majesty awaits your answer." King M'Teara answered and said, "Tell your Sovereign that King M'Teara of Mokoloh Bechuana does not wish to sell." Stanley coaxed and made all kinds of offers in his king's name, but King M'Teara was firm and told him he would not sell and to go and tell his King he would not. Henry Stanley went to England and delivered King M'Tear's message to his king. The message made the king of England very angry. He called a parliament meeting and held a conference with his lords. And at last they decided to invite the black king and queen to England and entertain them royally, in hopes that they would be able to induce King M'Teara to sell.

Henry Stanley attended the meeting and he told them of the beauty of the place and told them of the wealth he was sure was there. Said he, "Do you remember, your majesty, of the happenings at Mokoloh while Dr. Livingston was there? And how the younger son betrayed a family secret of some hidden wealth to some of Dr. Livingston's men. Did Dr. Livingston tell Your Majesty the details of the happenings?" "He did say something about it but did not give me the details," said King Edward of England. "Well I met a man that told me he had seen the wealth and said he was one of the men that was with Philip Gorden's party, when the younger son of the King showed them the secret chamber. He then went on describing the place to me," said Sanley, "and the description he gave of it was wonderful. I told the man I wanted him to come with me to England and have a talk with my king about that wonderful hidden chamber. During our conversation he told me that he was the only one of the white men living that was with Philip Gorden's party on the night they entered the secret chamber."

"I asked him," went on Stanley, "where I could find him when I wanted him. He gave me his address and in a few days I went to the place and inquired of the man; they told me the man had taken suddenly ill and in a few days had died. He had no money and no relations, so they buried him in a paupers grave. But I'm sure, your majesty, the fellow told me the truth about the hidden wealth. I hinted to King M'Teara about it and I could

see from his actions that the secret chamber was there and that the man had told the truth." The king of England listened to Stanley with an eager, greedy look. And after Stanley said he knew the wealth was there, the king raised to his feet and said, "My lords, we must have Mokoloh Bechuana at any price." And they all answered him and said together, "Yes, we must have it at any price." Stanley spoke up and said, "Your majesty must remember that they are not savage now, but civilized and educated negroes. They also know the value of their dominion and will not give up without a struggle." And Henry Stanley goes on saying (speaking in King M'Teara's favor, for he could never forget how well he was treated in King M'Teara's home.) There is no better white ruler than he. That land came to him from his forefathers. Why not make terms with him, to give him half of the dominion and keep the half yourself. King of England thought for a while and his thoughts ran thus: The land was his by rights. Was not his mission established there by Dr. Livingston? And was it not his mother, Queen Victoria, who sent Dr. Livingston there? And was it not Dr. Livingston who started them out in being what they are. And in that way he felt that the land was his by right. At last he says to Stanley, "I will take your advice, and if I fail I will overthrow him and take Mokoloh Bechuana." So the message was sent as we know: Inviting King M'Teara and Queen Vgonda to England. King M'Teara answered the message and said, "I feel honored in being the guest of your majesty, I accept your invitation, my Queen and I will be with you at an early date." King M'Teara felt that there was something lack of it all. The reason why he accepted the invitation was to go and see what it was. He wanted to give his wife a treat by taking her to England, for she had never been in a white ruler's court before. Then again he wanted the white queen and her court to see how beautiful and refined a black queen could be, and that would make a fine bridal trip too. So King M'Teara and Queen Vgonda went to England. The king and queen of England received them with honors due their station. They created quite a sensation in England. They dined and danced with the royalties of the land, and enjoyed themselves very much. At last the day came when the King of England said to King M'Teara, "Your majesty, one of my reasons for inviting you here was to make terms with you in regards to your land, Mokoloh Bechuana." Those words were said to King M'Teara at the Parliament conference meeting, and King M'Teara had been invited to go with the King of England to this meeting. King of England said to King M'Teara, "I wish to come to some kind of terms with you in regards to your land." King of England told King M'Teara how his mother had sent out Dr. Livingston as one of her explorers to establish missions in the name of his Queen, and wherever he established missions, the land belonged to his country. M'Teara was taken aback and said, "Is that the way you white christians say you do God's work? You come out to us savages and teach us the way to God and to live like christians should, and all the time you are planning to cheat or steal our land. Well, here is my answer, I will not sell my land." "You are speaking too hasty, your majesty," said the King of England. "I have thought things over since I sent you that message to buy. I feel since then that you have a right to give me half of your land, I want the half that came to you through inheritance, that is Mokoloh, you may have the half that came to you through your wife, Bechuana." "I am sorry to say, your majesty, that I can not gratify your wish, for Mokoloh belongs to my children, not to me."

## CHAPTER 9.

"Then you do not intend to make any terms with me?" "I will not make any terms with you in giving or selling the land of my father, and the land of my future children." "So, that is your answer?" said the King of England. "Yes, that is my answer," said King M'Teara. "You better think it over. We are not in a hurry for the answer, only I want your majesty to understand that I want Mokoloh, and Mokoloh I must have." "I need no more time to decide. Even if I took the time to think it over, my answer would be the same, Mokoloh I have and Mokoloh I will keep." The King of England rose to his feet, with anger in his eyes; King M'Teara also rose. Then the whole assembly rose, for they knew things between the two kings had come to a climax. There the two kings stood, a white and a black king. Each looked at the other with anger in his eyes. Each feeling the royal blood of his race running through his veins. Thus they stood for some time, until the King of England said, "What if I forced you to give up? I am mighty, I could crush you. I will if you do not give up Mokoloh." "You may do your worst, your majesty," said King M'Teara, "my answer holds." He then gave a stately bow to the King of England and the assembly of the lords and left the meeting. He then went to his Queen and told her of the meeting and the outcome of it. Queen Vgonda felt very much humiliated and said to her husband, "I never want to see London, England, again." In a few hours they embarked for their home in Africa. After they arrived home, they told Princess Sola all about it. She pretended to be in sympathy, but in her heart she secretly triumphed, because there was nothing she liked better than seeing Vgonda's feelings hurt, and was glad things turned out as they did. Thought she, this will better my new plans and will help me to get rid of the Sultan Said Bargash when I am through with him. After King M'Teara had returned to his kingdom, he added some additions to his dominion. He erected a strong fort around the whole cities of Mokoloh and Bechuana. He had the modern guns put in. His soldiers drilled. England could not boast of a better army. So, when the King of England arrived, including his army, he, King M'Teara, would be ready to meet them, for he knew he was able to hold against the whole of Europe.

\* \* \* \* \*

With the passing of the same two years, let us see how Princess Sola spent the two years. When King M'Teara and Queen Vgonda received the invitation from the King of England, inviting them to come to England, they wanted Princess Sola to accompany them. She begged them to go without her and laughed and said, "What does a bride and groom want with the third party?" Shaking her head she said playfully, "Run along, children, I will keep house." So it was agreed that Princess Sola was to stay home. We will find out why, after King M'Teara and Queen Vgonda had embarked for England. Princess Sola sat about working out her new plans in wrecking the happiness of her cousins and their home. This is how she went about it: First she made a visit to the Sultan Said Bargash; during her first visit, he entertained her, took her through his harem; he had his dancing girls to dance for her and fed her on his best and did everything he could to

make an impression. Princess Sola made him many visits after that. She always took her maid for company. During one of her visits to the Sultan, he proposed to her and said, "I love you, my Princess, I love you better than life! Will you, dear Princess, be the Queen of my harem? If you will have me, the rest of my wives will be your slaves, and if they were to be cross to you in the least, they shall pay for it, even if it would cost them their lives." He then knelt on his knees before Princess Sola and he said, "See, Princess, how humble I am, the mighty Sultan of Zanzibar kneels before you. He is doing for you what he never did before to a being on earth." He paused, then said, "Answer me, my Princess, and let me know my fate?" Oh, how triumphant Princess Sola felt. She wished her friends in Chicago could only see her now. A mighty Sultan kneeling at her feet, and begging her to become his wife. But she does not want the job; no, not she. She knew the moment she entered the Sultan's dominion as wife, her liberty was over. Once entering those walls, she would be like a bird in a gilded cage. That was not the life she wanted. It would do her no harm to accept the Sultan's proposal. King M'Teara had said to her and Queen Vgonda that he thought that England had eyes on his land, and they often conversed on the subject. So when Stanley came with the letter asking him to sell, his suspicions were aroused. At first, Princess Sola was alarmed, for she was still planning to have Mokoloho Bechuana, and in that plan she wanted the Sultan to help her, but hearing England was after it, alarmed her. She studied and studied; at last she came to a better plan, and in that plan she could also use the guard, Nera. So at last she looked down at the kneeling Sultan and said, "Oh, my mighty Sultan, I appreciate the love you offer me. I do love you in return. But I have a sacred mission to perform. I took an oath to my dear father that I would carry it out (the mission). Though my father is dead, the oath holds. I can not marry any man until that oath of revenge is fulfilled. Will you help me to fulfil that oath? Will you help me to carry out that revenge? If you will help me, then after I am Queen and mistress over the great wealth, I will come to you then." She told him everything about the wealth and of the family legends of Mokoloho, and showed him how near she stood to the throne. The Sultan readily consented to help her in her plans and wait until after they were carried out before she needed to become his wife. And by waiting, what a big prize it would bring; Mokoloho Bechuana; the hidden chamber and this beautiful woman. What luck. By waiting just a little while and helping her he would have them all. So while King M'Teara was in England and getting ready to fight England, the serpent in his home was getting ready to strike, and also his enemy. They planned to strike on the night of the christening of the heir. Princess Sola had another card up her sleeve she was going to use; she intended using the Sultan until she got rid of King M'Teara's family, then throw him over by selling Mokoloho Bechuana to England. First she would pick out Mokoloho Bechuana's strongest vessels and store as much of the wealth as she could in them; then send them to America. That was the part of the word she planned for Nera the guard to do. Then, she was to wait until the King of England had made terms with her and she had gotten her money for the sale, she would follow her ships to America. That was Princess Sola's last trump that she had up her sleeve, and she often smiled to herself about it.

The wonderful night of the christening came. The King's palace was ablaze with light from top to bottom. The noble guests from far and near

were invited to witness the christening of the heir and to participate in the pleasures of the evening. The Sultan of Zanzibar was again invited. If King M'Teara and Queen Vgonda had just only known what was to be the outcome of his being there, they would never had invited him. (Some time ignorance is bliss, but not in this case). For this eve was what the Sultan and Princess Sola looked forward to. Much was made over the little Prince and his beautiful Queen mother. Queen Vgonda was more beautiful than ever, added to her beauty was the look of happiness. And why should she not look happy, for was she not a beloved wife and a happy mother? Those alone filled her cup of happiness. Ah, Vgonda, if you only knew what a serpent lay in your den, coiled, ready to strike you, you would be trembling with fear and not looking with content and happiness! Even on the same night an army of English soldiers were making their way towards Mokoloh Bechuana. The festival went on, every one was enjoying themselves. King M'Teara laid aside his cares of state and joined in the enjoyments. Princess Sola and the Sultan were mostly together all evening, and if you would take a close look at them you could see from their faces they were looking or expecting something to happen. If you would see Princess Sola glide from the room and following her from the room, you would see her go to the window in the far end of the room and hold a conversation with an unseen person. Then she would come back and talk with the Sultan. So the celebration went on until midnight. Some were dancing, others enjoying themselves in various ways. The enjoyment of the evening was at its height when a comotion was heard outside. Then the doors were thrown open and in came two servants, surpassing a ragged and bleeding object in the form of a man. Every one in the assembly hall looked startled and surprised. The dancers stopped dancing, the music ceased. King M'Teara was standing conversing with some of the guests, when the doors were thrown open to admit the three persons. King M'Teara and his guests looked with surprise upon their faces. King M'Teara motioned the three to draw near and asked, "Why enter the assembly hall in this manner?" One of the servants answered and said, "One of the guards of the outer post brought this man (pointing to the bleeding, ragged object) to the palace; they found him in this condition banging on the gates, begging them to admit him and take him to the King immediately, for he had news for the King. At first (went on the same servant), your majesty, they would not admit him, and told him to be gone, but he pleaded so earnestly, that the guard became impressed. They saw that he had been badly treated by some one or parties, so they admitted him and then brought him to the entrance of the palace, told us what the man had told them. Then they left him with us to bring him here to you." Then King M'Teara looked at the man and while so doing he gave a start, for he recognized the man as being the ex-guard Nera. The man he had driven from the dominion, and Nera it was. When he saw the King give the start and saw the angry look on his face, Nera dropped on his knees and said, "I have news for you, news for your own safety, "Out there," said he (pointing in the direction which he came), the Kamrase are marching this way to steal upon you unaware." "How do you know?" asked King M'Teara. "I heard their plot. Will your majesty listen to my story, and how I lived after I was turned from here?" "Yes, I will listen," said King M'Teara. "First I will make you more comfortable." King M'Teara then told the servant to bring a chair and some water. The servant did as he was bid. After Nera had drank the water and was made comfortable in the chair, he told his story. "After your majesty had turned me out, I wandered about for several days. Some of King Kamrase's scouts found me and asked me what tribe I was of. I told them I was of the

Mokoloho tribe. They surrounded me and took me to their king. They told him who I was and he became terribly angry and had me thrown in prison. A few days later he had me brought before him and asked me why I was away from my tribe. I told him all. After I had told him he said, "Become one of my tribe, for no doubt you hate your King for treating you the way he did. Join me and become one of my warriors and you will have a chance for revenge. I'm now making preparations to attack him. I know he has many warriors, but I intend to attack him unaware. And then you will have your chance. What is your answer?" said he. "Will you join us? I answered "No!" Although said I, my King did turn me out, I will not turn my hand against him. I deserved being turned out. Did I not violate the law? I took an oath to keep my King's faith, if breaking that law, I suffer the penalty. The King tried to persuade me a little longer, and when he saw I would not join him against you, he became very angry and called his people together. Then he pointed to me and said, "this man is a slave, treat him as such. If any of you see him trying to make his escape, bring him to me and I will have him put to a horrible death. I was then beat and tortured, and half fed. But I kept my vow. I would not join him against you. In the meantime I heard their plans and even heard that this is the night that they were to attack you. I wondered and wondered how I could inform you. At last a plan entered my mind, so, at the last moment I went to the King and said, "I'm ready to join you." So he furnished me with a warrior's outfit and I started with them, I managed to steal away from them. They discovered that I was gone before I got very far. They pursued me and sent many spikes flying after me. Some of them hit me. That is why I am wounded. I ran on. Some of them are looking for me yet, I suppose. I managed to get to the gates where your warriors found me knocking for admittance." King M'Teara and the rest were spellbound. King M'Teara believed every word Nera had said. During Nera's narration, King M'Teara's eyes never left his face and he saw "truth" written there. Princess Sola and the Sultan looked on with satisfaction and thought how well their plans were working. Then King M'Teara grasped Nera's hand and said, "My poor exiled subject, how sorry I am to hear how you have suffered. Whatever charge my father had against you, I withdraw and forgive you. I know he would do the same if he was here. I'm going to let you come back, that will be your reward for this noble deed you have done." Nera looked in his King's eyes and saw that he meant every word he said. He then dropped his eyes and bowed his face in shame and said to himself, "To think how I'm deceiving this noble hearted king. Was it not my fault that I was driven from this kingdom? Why do I not tell all, and expose that vile woman? Why do I let her wind her vile self around me? And why do I let her force me to do her bidding? Why don't I even now expose her?" He raised his head and looked around in search of her. At last he saw her standing not far away. The Sultan stood by her side. His eyes met hers. By the meeting of those two's eyes, the Mokoloho Bechuana doom was sealed. If Nera had not been in Princess Sola's presence, he might at that very moment confessed. But with those magic eyes of Princess Sola's on him, he just could not tell. Oh, how he wished to tell before it was too late, but he dared not tell. So the time had passed for him to save his king's life. "Come my good man," said King M'Teara, "you must join us in going out to meet the foes." Then King M'Teara gave orders to all the Mokoloho soldiers to dress in their savage warrior's outfit and be ready in an hour to advance to meet the foe. In an hour's time the soldiers and the gentlemen of the Mokoholo court were back in the assembly hall.

## CHAPTER 10.

What a wonderful change, in about an hour ago, you would have seen well groomed up to date men, in that same assembly hall. At the present time they looked different. They were the same men but they looked so different. The King among them stood dressed like the rest, with a lot of feathers on his head. (Something like the Indians of America wore) They had rings in their noses, a neckless of animal teeth around their necks, and nothing but a little hide hid the center regions of their bodies. On their arms and legs were things that looked like bracelets. Therir feet were bare; each carried a long spike and shield; their faces were all smeared with paint. King M'Teara looked more hideous than the rest. His paint was brighter; he had more neckless, also bracelets; the hide that covered his body was different from the rest; the hide was the hide of a lion. That was worn to distinguish his station. (This has been explained before that was worn to distinguish his station. Those men were also drilled to fight in a civilized way and could fight as well as any white man, could handle a gun as well as any well drilled soldier. The women were drilled as well, and could also handle a gun and a sword. Queen Vgonda went over to her husband. He took her in his arms, neither of them said a word for both of their hearts were heavy. Queen Vgonda laid her head on his breast and sobbed. He stroke her hair and tried to sooth her the best he could. Just to think thought she, not an hour ago her heart was light and happy, and now it was so heavy and sad.

\* \* \* \* - \* \* \* \* \*

King M'Teara still caressed her, his heart was also sad and heavy, for he felt that he was going from her forever. That feeling, he tried to hide it has best as he could, and talked bravely, encourage her. Presently he said, "Darling I will just be gone for a few hours. It will just take a few hours to wipe out the Kamarse, and then we will be back. I'm just going to take the Mokoloho warriors with me, the Bechuana will stay to protect you and watch for the English, for I am sure they will be near here anytime. I'm sorry that the Kamarse brought on this fight now, for they are likely to come while I'm gone and I want to be here to meet them. But maybe I will be back in time." Queen Vgonda dried her eyes and said, "Why does the Kamarse wish to fight you, M'Teara?" "I do not know," said he, unless his present King holds a grievance against me for the happenings of years back. I've often heard my grandfather speak of it. It even happened before his time. The Mokoloho and the Kamarse had fought; the Mokoloho came out victorious. But after that they became friendly. Why this wanting to fight me, I cannot understand. When I meet him on the battle field he must explain. And when I return I will tell all. He then went over and kissed his baby tenderly, then came back to his wife and again took her in his arms and kissed her. Then says, "Take care of our baby." Then he said to one of the waiting, which happened to be Princess Sola: "Be kind to them Sola." While he said those few words to Princess Sola, a sad pleading look came into his eyes; she saw it. It was the look to soften any hard hearted person but the look never softened her heart at all. Princess Sola answered him with a deceitful smile, and also

managed to have tears in her eyes and said in a choking voice, "Dear cousin, I will do my best in comforting them while you are gone which I hope will not be long."

"Probably King Kamarse retreated after he found that Nera had succeeded in making his escape. He would know that Nera came straight to you and tell you of his coming." "I hope he will not retreat, for now I want to meet him and make him explain why he wished to fight." Princess Sola was more than glad to hear how determined he was to go. She was afraid that her little statement would make him change his mind and not go. And what she wanted was for him to go. "Well, M'Teara being that you will go, take my best wishes with you. And I will do my best in looking after Vgonda and the baby," said Princess Sola. They she held out her hand and said in a sad voice, "good-bye dear cousin." He gave her a brother's kiss and shook hands with her, and then went out, found his warriors, and joined them.

Nera was there with the warriors. After King M'Teara had joined the warriors, he said to Nera, "lead us to our advancing foes," and Nera lead them. A little of Nera's history of the advancing foes was true. They did advance but not far. Then they managed to give Nera a few bruises, then sent him to draw King M'Teara and his warriors out. They then laid in ambush waiting.

King M'Teara was not told that King Kamarse was forced in the plot by the Sultan (which he was). The Sultan and Princess Sola had laid their plans and King Kamarse like Nera was their tool. This is how King Kamarse came to do the Sultan's bidding. Sometime before Sultan Said Bargash attacked King Kamarse's dominion, and overpowered him and his warriors; he made King Kamarse a prisoner and condemned him to death. He then made slaves out of King Kamarse's wives. King Kamarse told him on his knees if he would spare his life he would willingly be his slave and do whatever the Sultan wished him to do. The Sultan pondered over the proposition and delayed the execution of King Kamarse and had him taken back to prison. It took the Sultan a few days to think over King Kamarse's offer, and at last he thought up a plan. He then had the King brought again before him and said to King Kamarse, "I will spare your life on these conditions; you may take your people and go back to your dominion; you can not go back as their King, but as my slave and servant.

Everything that you have held, you must turn over to me with your people and yourself. You may be over them, and they may recognize you as their King, but when I say do, you must do as I say. And they must do as I say. On these conditions will I spare your life. Of course, I could have you put to death and then have all that you have held, but after thinking it over I decided to let you live. I want someone to look after the dominion I took from you, and you are the man I want to take care of it. And here is more: If I want you to fight an enemy of mine, you must do it without a murmur. Are you ready to deal with my proposition? If so, say the word yes. If not, I know what to do." King Kamarse pondered a while with his head bowed down. Oh, how he hated to humble himself to this contemptible person. But what was he to do? If he refused, he would lose his life; his wives and his people would not have any protection. If he lived, he could protect them some and then he might have the chance to turn the table on the Sultan, and have the Sultan where the Sultan had him. At last he said to the Sultan, "I will accept your offer." The Sultan then allowed him to take his people and depart. The Sultan watched them go. He smiled with a wicked smile and said to himself, "My dear King, it will not be many days before I call upon you to do my bidding."

In a few days after that, Princess Sola asked for his help to overthrow her cousin. The Sultan and Princess Sola planned for it to be on the night of the christening. The Sultan then summoned King Kamarse to his palace and said, "I want you to take your warriors and march to King M'Teara's dominion; halt in a mile of there; than scatter your men around in a circle almost closed; then lay low until you hear a certain signal. The Sultan then clapped his hands to summon his slave, when his slave appeared the Sultan told him to send Nera to him. In a little while Nera came. The Sultan then said to King Kamarse, "the parties I want you at this moment to attack is King M'Teara and his warriors." He then pointed to Nera and said, "This is the man that is to lead you to them." He is the one that will give you the signal, too. "You must not harm him, but the rest must die. You must not let a man live." Then the Sultan told King Kamarse how King M'Teara and his warriors were to be lured into the trap and massacre. Then after he had told King Kamarse the plot and gave him orders what to do, he told him to be at the appointed place at midnight and said, "Nera leaves here with you, and when you get to the appointed place you must wound Nera, and then send him on to Mokoloho Bechuana and see that you carry out my orders to the last letter." He then dismissed the two men.

I can not describe the agony Queen Vgonda went through, when she saw the last of the army disappearing in the darkness on their way to meet the enemy. She liked King M'Teara and had the feeling that they were parting, never to meet again in this world. She took her babe in her arms and sat down and thought over her husband's words. "Why did King Kamarse wish to fight?" The more she thought of it, the more she felt there was something else in back of it all. After King M'Teara and his warriors marched away, most of the invited from outside of the dominion had left. The Sultan and a few others stayed. The Sultan stayed to see the outcome of his plot.

Princess Sola and the Sultan told Nera that he was to give King M'Teara his fatal blow and leave the rest to King Kamarse and his warriors. And they were almost sure their plans would be carried out without a blunder. They were laughing up their sleeves and thinking of the massacre of their victims. Just then a bleeding object staggered into the assembly hall and fell. Many that were in the hall rushed to him to see what could be done for him. They did not look at him with the surprise they did Nera. They were all uneasy and were looking for something to happen. After they had made the man as comfortable as they could, and had cleansed the blood and dirt from his face, every one startled with surprise and dismay, and looked with fear and agony in their faces and eyes, for in the man they recognized King M'Teara's body guard, and they also saw that he was dying. They wondered how he managed to come back. He said to them in a blabbering breath, "ask Queen Vgonda if she will see me right away. Tell her I have a wonderful narrative to tell; and ask her if she would please hurry, for I am going fast." The messenger found Queen Vgonda seated at the same place, still holding her baby and thinking. At last she came from the land of dreams by hearing her name called. When she heard the word "the King's guard," she listened more closely to what the messenger was saying. The messenger then told her what the guard had said. After the messenger told her the guard was dying, she was sure the worst had come. But she would go listen to the guard and hear the bitter and sorrowful ending which she was sure was to come. Still holding her baby to her breast, she went to where the guard lay. With a calm look on her face and with a rapid beating heart she looked down on the guard's face where death had stamped its seal and said, "Monrue." The guard had been laying with his

eyes closed. When the Queen called his name, he opened his eyes and looked at her with sadness and said, "Oh, mighty mistress, you do not know how it pains me to bring this sad news;" then he paused and looked away. Queen Vgonda and the rest of the people felt what was to come. Every one stood quietly, waiting for him to continue. He then fastened his look on his Queen's face and said, "Our King and all the rest were massacred." Hands went to the eyes of the woman. Then men dropped their heads.

Silence and sadness reigned supreme. They were massacred by the Kamarse; that traitor Nera was in the plot; we marched on hoping every minute to meet the foe, hoping we would see them advancing to meet us. But instead of them advancing, they lay in ambush and after they had gotten us completely surrounded, they pounced upon us unaware, and every one excepting myself was killed instantly. I had received my death wound but I was able to crawl here to tell you of the treachery. With my own eyes I saw the traitor Nera give King M'Teara his fatal blow. Our King was fighting with one of the foes with his back to Nera, and the traitor Nera sneaked up behind him and spiked him. No sooner than he did it, I with my spike intended to run him through to know I would have the satisfaction of ending his treacherous life and revenge my King. But I did not get the satisfaction of ending his life, but I know I wounded him badly. Just as I gave him the wound, I received my fatal wound. I know I fatally wounded Nera because I ran my spike pretty deep. After I gave Nera his wound and discovered I was wounded, I thought it best to come to you and tell you while I had the strength. After Monrue had finished talking he sank back on his pillow and closed his eyes and lay as if he was dead. After a few seconds, he opened his eyes and looked at his Queen and said. "Beware mighty mistress, there is a serpent laying coiled in your midst. It has struck several times; it is lying coiled ready to strike again." His eyes rolled back and he again sank back on his pillow, this time for the last time for King M'Teara's body guard Monrue had joined his sovereign in the other world. While Monrue, the King's guard talked, Princess Sola and the Sultan exchanged knowing looks. The Sultan looked around and saw that all eyes were on the dying man. He secretly made his escape. Princess Sola watched him go with an uneasy look fearing someone would look around and see the Sultan sneaking away and would give the alarm. She knew if he was caught in the act, he would be suspected and they would also suspect her and she would not have the chance to finish her fiendish work. So when she saw him disappearing in the dark she knew she was safe. The uneasy look left her face, a triumphant look took its place. The triumphant look never left her face, it still lingered while she looked into the dying face of Monrue while he warns his Queen to beware of the serpent. And while he was giving the warning, she, the serpent, was standing with her arms around Queen Vgonda's waist, pretending to be in sympathy with her and to comfort her,

## CHAPTER 11.

Queen Vgonda stood like a statue many seconds after Monrue had warned her. Her mind was on the warning. Her uncle had warned her and King M'Teara before his death took place, and now Monrue, the guard, had said the same thing about the serpent. Her eyes wandered around the room in search of the serpent; She looked at each and everyone, she gave a shiver as if she were really in the coils of something loathsome. For the first time since she entered the room she felt someone's arms around her and was trying to comfort her. She looked around and discovered the person to be Princess Sola. She gave a start and almost cried out to the people saying, "I have found the serpent." Then she took a second thought. What proof had she that she knew who the serpent was? At that moment her over strained nerves got the best of her. She began to feel queer, her knees gave away and her friend Lady Mala was just in time to take the baby from her arm before she fell back in Princess Sola's arms in a dead faint. A little later Queen Vgonda came out of the swoon. She then asked for her baby. Sadie Mala brought the baby to her. She then took her baby and held him tight to her breast and with her heart rendering she cries. Thus she sat for some time with her son held tight to her breast. At last her fit of weeping was over, she sat quite still for some time. The people in the assembly hall were standing in groups talking in undertones. Princess Sola stood a little apart from the rest wtih her handkerchief to her face pretending to be weeping. By taking a peep behind the handkerchief you would see a triumphant look and she was saying to herself. "Two more and the revenge is complete."

Silence reigned some moments until the voice of Queen Vgonda rang out (not in her soft mellow voice, but in a hard commanding voice)and said, "All of my people come under the sound of my voice." They all looked n her direction. She had already handed her baby to her friend and there she stood standing erect looking as if she had grown several inches taller, and she also looked every inch a Queen.

After they had come under the sound of her voice as she had commanded them (Princess Sola including) when the others had heard the commanding voice of Queen Vgonda, they turned and looked startled. Princess Sola did not only start but quailed, and when she saw the Queen standing in that attitude her courage left her. For she saw in the Queen what she had never seen before (a regular foe, a foe that will meet her half way). Queen Vgonda said, "Monrue was right, there is a serpent among us my people; we are all in the dark and have been all the while. Those few minutes I sat there going over the different happenings of the late years, at last I am seeing through the dark the last few outlines of the form of our enemy. I'm sorry to say my people that the enemy is now in our midst. But my people let us not fathom that out now, for we have another mission to perform, and that mission is to go after King Kamarse: compel him to tell us all then unmask the guilty one here. And then revenge our dead, the brave warriors of Mokoloh. Their King and all are dead; their blood cries out for revenge. "Will you Bechuana, follow your Queen and answer that cry? If so be ready to follow me in one hour," then she dismissed them.

She then went over to her friend Sadie Mala embraced her and said, "Mala you have been more than a friend to me, you have been a sister, and, I love you as a sister. Since the going of my dear M'Teara, I feel nearer to you, I'm quite alone. I'll leave baby with you for I am sure you will take best of care of him, and if I do not return you will take my place and raise him as your own. If danger threatens him, I'm sure you will protect him." "Vgonda, if I loose my life in doing so, I will" said Sadie Mala. But I am sure you will return, I too, have no one now but you and baby and I intend to devote my future life to both of you. The two friends embraced. Each heart was sad for the loss of their loved ones. Queen Vgonda again takes her baby in her arms and kisses him and hands him back to her friend Sadie Mala, then she leaves the room to get ready to lead her warriors to the battle field.

In a little while the men returned dressed for war in their native costums. Just like King M'Teara's men were dressed. They had not been there long before they were summoned to the throne room, where their Queen awaited them. When they arrived at the throne room, they found the Queen was waiting for them. She was seated on the throne with her court robe thrown around her. Instead of her crown being upon her head, there was her native head dress they wore when they were going to war with other native tribes. She sent her messenger to the four corners of the united dominion to herald all of the people and tell them of the calamity; and tell them that she, Queen Vgonda, was going after King Kamarse to revenge the wrongs of the dead, and all the men who wished to follow her to dress for battle and come to the palace doors, for she, Queen Vgonda, would be there awaiting them. The messengers did as they were told and in less than no time every man that did not follow King M'Teara was there on his knees before Queen Vgonda, showing how willing he was to follow her wherever she went and wherever she wished to lead him. (The palace doors to the throne room were placed so that the King or Queen could sit on the throne and talk with the assembly from the outside when the doors were thrown open. When the King or Queen wished to talk to all of their people they would have those doors thrown open and all of the people assembly outside.) After Queen Vgonda had talked with her warriors, she told them to get in line for marching, and she would join them in a few minutes and then had the doors of the throne closed.

Queen Vgonda then called all the ladies of the court to her. Among them were Sadie Mala and Princess Sola and told them to do their best in looking after the dominions and the women and children, while she was away, and also said, "If the English soldiers come while I am absent, you must hold against them as long as you can for the walls are strong and you have plenty of guns and ammunition to hold you and each of you are good marks-women. You must place watches on the walls and keep watch day and night." She then turned to her friend Sadie Mala and embraced her once more and said, "Mala I'm leaving with you my all. Oh, please do not leave him out of your sight day or night. For I have a feeling that danger is threatening him. You watch and if you see any one acting suspicious do not hesitate in having them thrown in prison. I'm leaving you in my place." She then turned to the rest of the ladies and said, "Take all orders from Sadie Mala for I am leaving her in my place." She at last turned to Princess Sola and looked her over. (Princess Sola quailed under the look for her guilty conscience would not let her do otherwise). Queen Vgonda gave Princess Sola a look in the eyes as if she was trying to look down to the bottom of that treacherous heart of hers and said, "Sola I have a suspicion that you have a hand in all the misfortunes that have befallen Mokoloho Bechuana.

I am almost convinced that you have. I'm going out there, said she, (pointing in the direction her husband King M'Teara and his warriors had gone) to get proof and then I'm coming back." Princess Sola gave a start. "Oh, you may start Sola but I am coming back. I'll not be detained like M'Teara, I'm going out there to demand the facts from King Kamarse and then kill him, I'm not going to sneak upon him, like he did M'Teara, for we, Bechuana are not cowards. I'm going to give him a chance to fight and when the fight is over I will have the facts and King Kamarse's life. And then I will return and when I do return things must be at Mokolohoe Bechuana as I left them. If I do not find them so, you must explain why they are not. If your explanation does not ring true you must answer to me and nothing short of your answer will be your life." Princess Sola said not a word for she knew that Queen Vgonda meant every word that she said. Queen Vgonda went on saying, "Sola you called me a savage one, look . . . and Queen Vgonda threw off her royal robe which had been thrown around her and revealed her dress. (The outfit she wore was the same she had worn on the day of Prince M'Teara and Princess Sola home coming). Queen Vgonda went on saying, "Do you remember the day Sola, when you cam and I wore this same outfit, you called me a savage then. What do you think of me now?"

## CHAPTER 12.

Queen Vgonda not only wore the savage outfit, but also had on the war paint and had rings in her nose and ears. She did look indeed a savage. By that time Princess Sola was really quivering with fear and was really frightened. Queen Vgonda saw the effect her words and looks had on Princess Sola and it pleased her, at least she thought, I have the satisfaction of frightening her. Then Queen Vognda said aloud to Princess Sola, "Beware Sola that this savage will not tear you to pieces. And she will do it if she returns and find any more dirty work done."

After Queen Vgonda said her parting words to Princess Sola she again called the ladies attention and said, "There is one thing, the most important that I forgot to mention, and that is our flag. If the English come to you, you must protect the flag, do not let it fall." She then started to the door; she stopped and turned around and called her friend Sadie Mala and said, "Do not forget to always see that the entrance to the secret chambers are well guarded. For I believe our hidden enemies have their eyes on it. I have not yet got over the mystery of Uncle Rabba Rega's death," Then after she gave the last orders to Sadie Mala she bid them all good-bye and then joined the warriors.

They were all there. They went through their native war dance of death. They sent up their voices with their war cry, you hear the cry for miles. And you would never believe if you did not know, that they were civilized. Queen Vgonda's dance and cry mingled with the rest only her dance was wilder, her cry was more blood curdling than the others. During their dance they reminded you of the American Indians on the war path. After the dance became wilder, their cry louder, Queen Vgonda said, "Come, my brave warriors of Bechuana, let us go and meet the Kamarse and avenge the brave warriors of Mokoloho, come."

She in the lead the rest followed, still keeping up their dance. They marched all day over hills and dells 'till at last they paused on a hill. For right under that hill was King Kamarse's village. The Kamarse's scouts saw them and carried the news to their King. King Kamarse gathered his warriors together and advanced to meet the foe.

When he was in a speaking distance he hailed Queen Vgonda and in a mocking voice said, "Why does Queen Vgonda and her warriors honor me with this visit?" "To avenge my husbands death; to kill you as you killed," said Queen Vgonda. Then Queen Vgonda commanded her warriors to charge, the spikes fell among the Kamarse and injured many.

Then the spikes of the Kamarse flew among the Bechuana. Then the fight was on; the battle lasted some time. Queen Vgonda mingled among them; blood dripped from her spike. The Bechuana had won the day, but had lost many warriors. The Kamarse were nearly all killed outright and many injured.

King Kamarse was fatally wounded by Queen Vgonda. It was Queen Vgonda who made him confess all about the massacring of Mokoloho. After he had told her all, you can imagine her surprise when he said the Sultan of Zanzibar was the one that forced him to massacre the Mokoloho warriors.

The Sultan was the last person she would suspect. She then asked King Kamarse, "Why did the Sultan wish to harm Mokolohó?"

"I do not know why" said King Kamarse, "You see I am his slave and I must do as he bids me. And all he bid me to do was to ambush the Mokoloha warriors and when I had them completely surrounded, I should take them by surprise and kill them, and I was not to leave but one alive and that was the man that lead them." Queen Vgonda's heart was not as hard towards King Kamarse as it was at first. She was really sorry she did not make him confess before the battle. Then she would have made him get his warriors and go with her after the Sultan and get him like she got King Kamarse. But it is too late now, for what few warriors she had left, she wanted to fight the English. She looked on King Kamarse's dying face and said, "I forgive you and many others, and may the good spirit do likewise." King Kamarse said not a word but took her hand in his hand and kissed it, then sank to the ground and died. Queen Vgonda stood looking down on him and shaking her head sadly.

A hand touched her, she looked down and saw a form half raised from the ground asking her to kneel down by him and listen to what he had to say. She did as he asked. No sooner than she saw his face she knew him for he was none other than the ex-guard of the hidden chamber, Nera. The surprise took her breath for some time, at last she said, "Nera, you traitor, I thought you were dead." Oh, mighty mistress, the good spirit did not intend for me to die until I confess and unmask that serpent of a woman. Mighty mistress, I've been so terribly treated that is why I have been so wicked and have done you and yours so much harm. If it had not been for her, I would still be your trusted guard. She made me become madly in love with her, and then made me to do her bidding. "You speak of her, who is she?" asked Queen Vgonda. The dying fellow at last said, "Princess Sola." Then Queen Vgonda said, "At last I am beginning to see it all." She did not know whether to be angry or sorry for the poor foolish fellow. At last her pity got the better of her anger, she knelt beside him and said in a kinder voice, "Tell me all about it Nera."

Nera hung his head with shame for a while and thinking of all he had done to this noble Queen, and knew she knew he had helped to wreck her happiness. Even then, could find in her kind heart to speak to him kindly. He hid his face in his hands and wept like a child. Queen Vgonda laid her hand gently on his shoulders and said, "Tell me all about it. By confessing your conscience will be cleared. Tell me from the beginning to the end." He told her all we already know. The part he had a hand in; he told of the Sultan's part of the plot, and in the winding up of his confession he said, "I'm sure it was she who killed your uncle King Rabba Rega. Oh, mighty Queen, she is a vile woman, I did not know at first how vile she is. "Beware of her my Queen, for she intends to do you more harm." Queen Vgonda thought for a while then said, "Do you know why she hates my family, Nera?"

"No I do not know why, but I do know she hates her father's family and you included." Queen Vgonda looked at Nera and saw that he was going fast. He was looking at her with a pleading look in his eyes as if saying, "Please forgive me." And she did forgive him. For it all came back to her mind how the woman once had her M'Teara in her snare.

After Queen Vgonda had told Nera she had forgiven him for what he had done to her and her loved ones, she said to him, "Nera, your King's body guard Monrue, told me he left you dying from a fatal thrust which he gave you, how is it I find you here" "The Kamarse brought me here after they found that I was alive." There is one more question I want to ask you

Nera." Where is the place the Kamarse attacked the Mokoloho?" Nera told her. Then afterwards Queen Vgonda left Nera the ex-guard of the secret chamber to die without being disturbed by any of her warriors. Instead of her calling them to her, she went to them. She knew if they saw Nera they would inflict some severe punishment upon him, and would rejoice at seeing him in agony, and she said to herself, "He has suffered already for his sins, so let him die in peace." She then went over to her warriors and told them the startling news. (King Kamarse's confession) and said, "We are too weak a body now to go after the Sultan, for he will surely overpower us. We will go find the bodies of King M'Teara and his warriors and bury them, then go back and protect Mokoloho Bechuana from the English." She did not mention Nera's confession to them for that was her secret.

She had made up her mind to make Sola confess, then, well, Sola must suffer for her crimes. When the army neared home she was still wondering how she would punish Sola for her crimes. Just before she entered the palace, she drew one of her head officers to one side and said, "Tell all of them that I am missing, and say you think I was killed. The officer looked astonished." "I will tell you my reasons for wanting you to do this, later." She left the officer standing there and entered the palace by the way of a secret entrance. The officer looked after her for a second; shook his head sadly and entered the palace by the main entrance.

As soon as Queen Vgonda and her warriors marched away, Princess Sola sent a message to the Sultan telling him of Queen Vgonda's doings and said in her message, "Get your army together and come up on the rear of them and that will surely be the end of the Bechuana, and you and I will be in possession of Mokoloho Bechuana. Sultan Said Bargash might have done as Princess Sola had told him if the English army had not passed his dominion on their way to Mokoloho Bechuana. So he thought it was best to stay away although he wanted Princess Sola and much as he ever did, he wanted Mokoloho Bechuana, also.

But he was not going to have any trouble with England in trying to get them, so he looked towards Mokoloho Bechuana with a sad longing look, shook his head and sighed, and that was the last that was heard of Sultan Said Bargash.

\* \* \* \* \*

While Queen Vgonda was away Princess Sola was not idle, she was sure Queen Vgonda would never return, so she sat about finishing up her plans. After she had sent the message to the Sultan, the first thing she did was to get on good terms with Sadie Mala, Queen Vgonda's bosom friend in whose care the baby was left. She succeeded in getting in the graces of Sadie Mala, she made much over the little King and would say to her, "I'm going to help you take care of baby and Mala allowed her to help. So one night Princess Sola entered Sadie Mala's room sooner than usual, and as she thought no one was there she went to the table where a pitcher of water stood and dropped a few drops of poison from a vial she held in her hand, she then went to the place where the baby's night bottle of milk was, and dropped a few grains in it. The poison she used for them was not the same she used for King Rabba Rega. The kind she used for him did not kill quick, but this she used for them did.

No one saw Princess Sola enter the room and no one saw her leave it. The next morning Sadie Mala's maid ran into the room where all of the court ladies generally assembled with a frightened look on her face and said, "My Sadie Mala and the little King are dead in Sadie's room." They all rushed up to the room and found what the maid said to be true. Princess

Sola was among them. The ladies were so frightened that they all went to their rooms afraid to leave and afraid to eat anything, fearing they would meet the same fate as Sadie Mala and the little King. Princess Sola took advantage of the situation and had Sadie and the little King buried the next day, and on that same day the warriors came back from the battle. The officer did as Queen Vgonda had told him to do. He told all of the soldiers they must put out a report that Queen Vgonda was missing, and he also reported it in the palace. When Princess Sola heard it she sat about right away in making preparations for her crowning. She was going to make a grand day of it, if it had not been for the fear of the English coming she would send out invitations far and near. But she had to be contended at having her own court ladies and gentlemen as her guests.

The day of Princess Sola's crowning came. Oh, how she had looked forward to that day. Princess Sola was out of bed earlier on that day, she went to the window of her room and looked out and said to herself aloud, "what a beautiful morning. How fate smiles on me. This is my day of triumph, the day I have long looked forward to. Oh, father if you were only here to be happy with me. I've kept my oath to you; I've wiped out the whole family." Her face then paled and she threw her hands before her. Her face turned aside. The visions of her crimes were before her. Then she said to her unseen foes, "Yes, I killed you all." She went with her eyes staring, with her teeth showing (for her victims had returned to haunt her). "You asked me why I killed you!" I promised my father I would kill you Rabba Rega and M'Teara, you ask why he wanted you killed! "Well, I will tell you.....He hated you and wanted your possessions, your wealth; I killed you because I also hated you and wanted the crown and the wealth with it. You ask why I killed your brat, did he not stand between me and the crown? You ask why I killed that Sadie, I had to kill her to get to your brat. Yes, I know she was not of the family, but she stood in my way. Look how many were sacrificed before I got you M'Teara, now I have told you all go back to heaven or hell where you came from and leave me in peace. You say you will not go, yes you will go!" She picked up several articles and threw them at the unseen foes. The noise from throwing of the articles awakened her maid, the maid could not think what could be the matter. She rushed to her mistress's room and was surprised to find her up so early and standing there looking so queer. The maid hurried to her mistress, took her by the hand and lead her to her bed as if she was a child. Princess Sola let herself be lead like a child for she was really bewildered. The maid said after she had put her mistress in her bed, "Shall I bring the doctor to you?" "No Werina, you need not. I will lie here a while and then I will be alright. Go back to your room, I will ring for you if I want you."

The maid saw that her mistress was comfortable and left the room. Princess Sola knew that was an evil omen in seeing spirits of her victims appearing to her on the day of her crowning.

## CHAPTER 13.

The English army had drawn nearer to the Mokoloh Bechuana. A little cloud had entered in the sky on that wonderful day. The throne room was decorated for the occasion. Princess Sola was dressed in a beautiful royal robe she had gotten for her coronation. At last the hour came, she was to be crowned Queen. There stood the minister that was to place the crown on her head. He stood there with the crown beside him, waiting for the princess to advance. Princess Sola advanced to the throne. (The throne was raised a few feet from the floor). Her foot was on the second step that lead to the throne. Just then the secret door that was in between the throne seats flew open and there in the secret door stood Queen Vgonda. Princess Sola fell back with dismay, there was only one word she could say and that was "Vgonda." An !. Queen Vgonda it was in all of her splendor. She looked at Princess Sola with flashing eyes and said, "Yes 'tis Vgonda; you did not look for me back, did you? I told you I was coming back and must find things as I left them. I know all about your crimes, Sola." Queen Vgonda took her and shook her just as if she was a rag. Then Queen Vgonda called all of the people nearer and said, "The guard Nera had told me all, this she devil is the cause of it all. She is the cause of all of our misfortunes. She conspired with that Sultan, Said Bargash and between them they wrecked our homes. They made poor Nera their tool." It would have been pretty bad for Sola, had not Queen Vgonda interfered and said, "Stop my subjects, her life belongs to me." Then she said to her officers, "Place her in prison." Then she looked around and said, "where is Mala? Where is my baby?" Every one dropped their heads with a sad look upon all of their faces. Each one hating to be the one to tell her of the sad news. At last one person took up courage and said, "Oh mighty Queen, we have sad news for you. Your friend Sadie Mala and your baby are dead. We found them in Sadie Mala's room dead from poison. Queen Vgonda looked startled, then passed her hand across her brow, then staggered and said in a grasping voice, "Dead, Poison, who did it?" "We do not know" said the same person. "Where are their bodies?" said Queen Vgonda in a whispering voice. "They are buried." "By whose orders were they buried?" "By the orders of that woman there." The speaker pointed to Princess Sola. Princess Sola was still there between the two officers. Queen Vgonda looked at Princess Sola for a second then said, "I see it all now, you thought me dead, nothing stood between you and the throne but that poor little innocent babe, and you she fiend took his life." "Woman are you human or are you a fiend from hell that took the form of a human being that you might mingle among God's people and destroy them." She went up to Princess Sola and said, "Do you remember my threat to you before I went to battle? Well Sola, that threat holds good. I'm going to let you see what a savage can do." Just then the beating of drums was heard and the firing of guns. The English had arrived. Queen Vgonda turned to her subjects and said, "Go to your post my brave men. Fight to the last, hold Mokoloh Bechuana as long as your life lasts. Go my brave soldiers, Go!"

The men all left excepting the two men who held Princess Sola. "You may go also" said Queen Vgonda to the two officers, "I will answer for Princess Sola." Then Queen Vgonda turned to all of the court ladies and said,

"You go, too, my brave ladies and if you are needed, fight. As soon as I am through with this vile creature, I will join you." Then the ladies also left the throne room. So at last Queen Vgonda and Princess Sola stood facing each other. Each one trying to read on the others face what was on the others mind. At last Queen Vgonda said as calmly as she could, "Sola you have worked hard for the throne, even went through blood for it; what good will it do you after you get it? You will only have it for a short while. The English soldiers are here and here strong and Mokoloh Bechuana will be taken. What little time Mokoloh Bechuana is mine, I will give you the ruling. I will let you be Queen during the time we have left. You may have the thing (pointing to the crown) that you covet most If you come out victorious with your fight of death with me you shall have it. Sola, there is one thing I would like to ask you and you must answer truthfully. "What motive had you for wrecking our noble family?" "When you first came here, I could see that you had some motive in view, now tell me the truth for once, what was your motive." "I will tell you what that motive was being one of us is to die, and I am sure the one to die will be you," said Princess Sola in a mocking sneering voice. "I promised my father I would come here and destroy the Mokoloh family." "Why then did you want to marry M'Teara." asked Queen Vgonda. "That was in the plot," coolly answered Princess Sola. "I was to marry him, then kill him and his family. You was not included, but after I saw you I made up my mind to kill you too. I was going to let you live longer than them, so I could taunt you, I hated you!" "Queen Vgonda wondered why she was so calm while this woman was taunting her. "I guess it is because I am to take her life," thought she. She then said to Sola, "You can have the throne I must be killed. You must walk over my dead body to get it." "Then she walked over to the wall, took down two swords, then came back to Princess Sola and with the two swords laying across her arm she said, "Take your choice Sola, then let us begin our fight." Princess Sola looked at her for a second and then laughed out and said, "Do you know that I am one of the best swords-women of the United States of America?" "You are foolish to let your throne go so easy, let us choose some other weapons!" "Queen Vgonda only gave her a steady look and said, 'choose, Princess Sola, choose.' Then they took their position, they crossed swords and the fight was on.

The little cloud that was seen in the sky grew larger and larger until at last it covered the whole heavens. When Queen Vgonda and Princess Sola crossed swords, at that moment it seemed that the whole artillery of heaven had let loose. There was a terrible clash of thunder that shook the whole earth; the palace rocked like a cradle. The two women heard it not, their minds were occupied. You could hear the English and the Mokoloh guns; war was in the palace as well as outside, and the angry heavens were over them. Outside the English were gaining. They had succeeded in battering down the walls and were entering the dominions. The Bechuana soldiers knew they had lost, but the brave fellows fought to the last. Inside the palace the war was still on. On Princess Sola's face was an excited look, a calm look was on Queen Vgonda's face. Her arm and eyes were steady. Princess Sola was trying to make a certain play. Queen Vgonda saw it and was calmly keeping her from making it. She intends to make it herself. But is waiting for her foe to get more reckless in her sword play. What they both wanted to do was to make it to the steps that lead to the throne. If they made it they both thought, "I will win." Each wore her court robe with trains that made it pretty hard for them. At last Queen Vgonda got Princess Sola just like she wanted her. She thought, now is the time to make it for the steps. She gained the step, in doing so she gave Princess Sola a chance to give her a fatal thrust. It seemed as if Queen Vgonda did not know that she was hurt for she

kept on fighting as at first. She gained the second step then the third. Princess Sola rushing her. Princess Sola knew she had struck Queen Vgonda and knew she soon would give out. She became a little careless in her rush, Queen Vgonda on the third step saw her chance and took it. She strengthens her arm for the thrust. She gave the thrust with all the strength of her arm. Princess Sola saw the sword pointing to her breast. She tried to stop it but could not for it had entered her breast. "Oh, how it hurt." The hurting got deeper and deeper till something...; Princess Sola fell back dead with the sword wound through her breast. Queen Vgonda stood looking down at her dead foe with the bloodsword in her hand. Just then the lightening flashed, for the storm was still on. It was a night to be remembered. At every peal of thunder the earth would shake and tremble, and would sound as if it was being torn assunder; by now the firing of the guns had ceased, at the flash of the lightening, Queen Vgonda starts and found that she was wounded. She hung her weary head and wept, and said, "M'Teara I kept that vile creature from the throne, but my arms are not strong enough to keep Mokoloho Bechuana from the English, they will not over-throw me. M'Teara for I am going to take my seat and sit there until you come for me." She had one more step to go to reach the seat. She managed to get to the seat; she sank down very heavily, sat there a while with her eyes closed. If it had not been for seeing her breathing, one would have thought she was dead. At last she opened her eyes, the eyes where death had set its seal. Then she prayed. In her prayer she said, "Oh, kind spirit, will you let Vgonda into your Kingdom? I would not have been so wicked and killed but that evil one in the form of a woman made me do it. Please kind spirit, forgive me and let me into your Kingdom with my loved ones." Thus prayed Queen Vgonda with her hands lifted upward and dying eyes looking into the great beyond.

\* \* \* \* \*

Her prayer was answered. The darkness gave away; the lightening and thunder ceased. A heavenly light shone on the face of Queen Vgonda, a smile stole over her face, for she saw her loved ones. Her face lit up with a heavenly smile and she said Father! Mother! Uncle! M'Teara and baby! I come! I come!"....She sank back in her seat as if tired and fell asleep.

The English had taken Mokoloho Bechuana. They battered down the walls and had succeeded in breaking down the doors of the palace and had entered the throne to overthrow the ruler. When a sight met their eyes, and it held them spell-bound for they were just in time to hear Queen Vgonda's prayer. Every hat went off, and those that did not kneel hung their heads and thus they stood until she passed away.

"Come boys!" said the English General, we will have to sleep here in the palace to-night, to-morrow we will bury the dead then look for the hidden treasure. We will find it I am sure; we will then place an English flag over Mokoloho Bechuana; then we will go home. The English soldiers did not sleep well in the palace that night for the ghost of the Mokoloho were around them, some of the soldiers heard and saw them and they were heard to cry out when they saw them. Every one was thankful when morning came. As soon as they had their breakfast, they started out to look Mokoloho Bechuana over. Another sight met their eyes for Mokoloho Bechuana was nothing but a mass of ruin. The storm that night before had done its work. They buried all of the dead bodies they could find. The General had the debris cleared away from the entrance of the burning tomb, and laid Queen Vgonda where the rest of the Mokoloho laid. They carried

Princess Sola's body outside the gates and buried her in a corner without any mark to show her last resting place. After that the English soldiers tried to find the cave entrance to the secret chamber where the hidden treasure lay, but they never found it. The storm had hidden it completely and every one that had known of that hidden wealth was dead. So the English General hoisted the English flag over Mokoloho Bechuana then went home to England.

After the General and his army had gone to England, he reported to his King the taking of Mokoloho Bechuana, of the tragic death of Queen Vgonda and Princess Sola, of his burying the dead and of his failing to find the **hidden treasure chamber** of Mokoloho. The King of England said, "Do you believe there was such a place called the secret chamber?" "Yes, your majesty, I firmly believe there was; and I believe that God does not intend for any other than the Mokoloho's to have it; I believe that was why he sent that terrible storm on that night to hide it."

\* \* \* \* \*

It was true, God did not intend for that great wealth to pass from the possession of the Mokolohoens to another.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Oh, yes your majesty, I have brought you the flag of Mokoloho Bechuana, is it not beautiful?" He took from his breast pocket and showed a beautiful large piece of silk and spread it out full length before his King and all who assembled thcre. They all could not help but salute that flag, and salute the flag they did. The King of England shaded his eyes with his hands and no one could see his tears. At last when he felt he could control his voice, he shook his head sadly and said, "A Kingdom there was."

\* \* \* \* \*

Mokoloho Bechuana did have a flag. The flag had all the colors of the rainbow, with a horrible head of a beast without a name in the center of it.

END.













